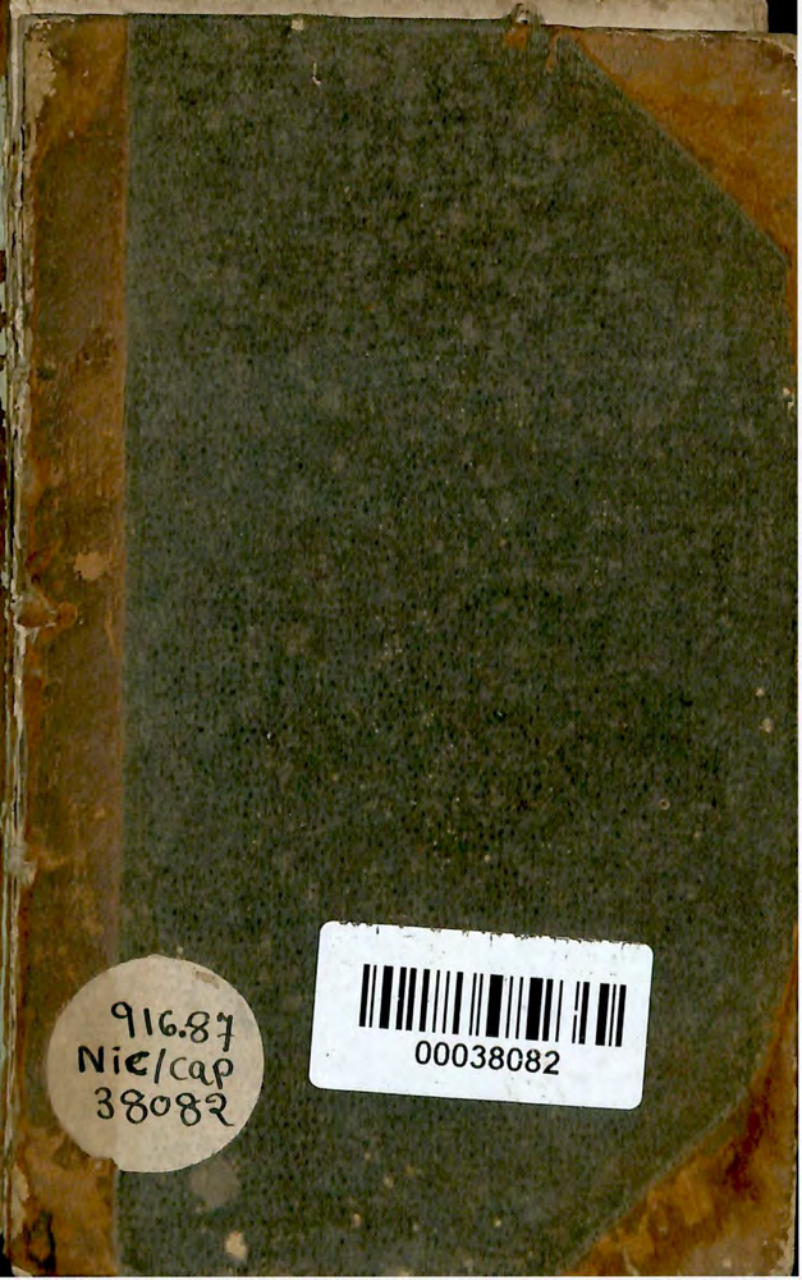
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THE CAPE

AND

ITS COLONISTS:

WITH

HINTS TO SETTLERS

IN 1848.

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BY

GEORGE NICHOLSON, JUN., ESQ.
A LATE RESIDENT.

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THE CAPE

AND ITS COLONISTS.

INTRODUCTION.

ALTHOUGH a great number of books, some of them containing valuable scientific information on the subject of the natural history of the Cape, and others describing the travels and personal adventures of their authors, have been published, I am as yet unacquainted with one that furnishes the more practical information so eagerly sought after by those interested in the country as a colony.

The peculiar bent of each author's mind

has, in general, been so far allowed to predominate as to exclude the hope of forming a correct estimate of the capabilities of the soil, climate, and other interesting features of this extensive country, by a perusal of their works. Besides, the mere traveller is generally too much impressed with the personal incidents of his adventurous journeys, and too much taken up with the excitement and exertions he undergoes, to care to examine minutely into, or specifically report upon, the available resources of a country to which he is only a visitor.

It is true that a book was published, some three or four years ago, by a Mr. Chace, purporting to describe in detail the greater part of this colony; but his ideas of the value and importance of South Africa, as a field for emigration, are so completely opposed to my own, as well as his opinions on the intrinsic

quality of the land as it is adapted to agriculture, or the pasture of flocks and herds, that his work can, in my opinion, only serve to mislead those who may rely on its contents for real information on the topics of which it treats. With the view, therefore, of supplying the information which I once eagerly sought in vain, I diffidently offer my book to the world.

The reader may rest assured that I have advanced no speculative opinions under the guise of facts, and that all the deductions I have drawn have resulted from experience and a wish to portray the real truth; and while, on the one hand, I have endeavoured to avoid exaggerating the advantages of the colony, I can assure him that I have, on the other, fairly described the drawbacks incidental to its peculiar position.

I have avoided, as much as possible, the tedious introduction of figures or calculations

where a general average is as good a guide and more easily understood.

The same reasons have induced me often to spare the reader the barbarous Dutch names of places and things with which many writers have half filled their books.

The intending emigrant will, I trust, glean from a glance at this work a sufficient idea of the general nature of the country, and its peculiarities, to escape becoming a complete stranger in the land of his adoption on arriving there; and, at all events, I shall stand acquitted of having over-stated anything, when experience has enabled him to correct or verify the anticipations of hope.

On the subject of the field-sports at the Cape, and of the territory beyond the Orange River to the north east, I could have enlarged; but Sir William Harris's account of sport in those regions is so correct in all respects, and

has been so much read and admired, that I find it difficult to give any information on the subject which might merit a very large share of attention in so modest a volume as this.

On the Kaffir war, and the policy of former governments in connexion with that people, I have endeavoured to give my opinions explicitly, and in as concise and practical a manner as possible; and if my remarks should only be found to contain any useful suggestion, as applicable to the subject, I shall be fully repaid for the animosity such sentiments may excite against me amongst those stay-at-home wiseacres, whose hollow theories have caused all the confusion, loss, and bloodshed which have occurred, of late years, on the eastern territory of the colony, as well as the hostility of those colonial residents, who, in point of fact, foment the warlike propensities of the neighbouring barbarians, to secure their own ends, and who,

of course, are averse to the adoption of any measures likely to destroy their speculations.

My intention must plead my cause, and I only hope that this work may be considered sufficiently useful to those desiring information on the colony, as, in some measure, to merit excuse for any want of style which may deservedly be charged upon the author.

CHAPTER I.

FIRST VIEW OF THE CAPE—CAPE TOWN—ALGOA BAY—PORT ELIZABETH.

In the beginning of the year 1843, I left England, and, after the usual tedium and discomfort of a boisterous voyage, arrived, in the month of March following, at Cape Town, having been about three months in making the passage from Portsmouth.

A landsman is rarely in better spirits than when the cry of "Land a-head!" is heard on such occasions; but I must say, that the

first view of the Cape is not of the most cheering kind. The general appearance of the country immediately round Cape Town is rocky, dry, and sterile, to an extent which, to a person fresh from England, is very striking, and to one intending to make his future home in the colony, to say the least, not a little discouraging. There are, indeed, on several parts of Table Mountain and the surrounding heights, some fertile patches of land, such as the celebrated "Constantia" Farm, and the gardens of Wynberg; and many of the ravines and spurs of the mountains—which are unseen from the sea—are covered with luxuriant trees and shrubs of various kinds. Nevertheless, I could fully appreciate the shock of disappointment which Mr. Pringle describes as having pervaded the body of hardy emigrants with whom he arrived at Simon's Bay, in the year 1820, on their first glance at the "land of promise."

That bay is about twenty miles from Table

Bay; but the general characteristics of the scene, as to soil and productions, are of the same kind,—although there the sterility is more apparent, as it is unrelieved by any of the grandeur so conspicuous in the formation of the Table Mountain, and its numerous kloofs, or ravines.

With a climate so beautifully serene, a scene so new, and the change—always so delightful—from ship-board to terra firma, the first feeling of disappointment on viewing the "nakedness of the land" soon wears off, and is succeeded by the pleasure afforded by the novelty of the situation, and a wish to penetrate into so strange a country, and seek a nearer acquaintance with its motley inhabitants.

This wish is the more urgent, as little information can be obtained in Cape Town on these topics, few of the inhabitants of this place appearing to have much more knowledge of the interior of their own colony than they have of central Africa; and this is not to be

wondered at, when we consider that most of them are engaged as merchants and dealers, and, therefore, can seldom quit the vicinity of their celebrated bay.

Cape Town is too well known now to require a particular description, and my chief aim is to endeavour to present a just view of the colony in its agricultural and pastoral, rather than in its commercial character.

As a residence, Cape Town is a pleasant place, especially during the months of April, May, June, July, and August; the weather is at this season generally as fine as the finest summer weather in England, but occasionally cold storms occur, which render a fire by no means disagreeable during their continuance.

As summer advances, the town becomes hot, occasioned by the reflection of the solar heat from the bare, light-coloured rock of which Table Mountain is composed, and which rises in a perpendicular precipice immediately behind the town.

At this season, the south-east winds begin to set in, and blow with great violence nearly every afternoon, and raise clouds of reddish dust, which render it almost impossible to stir, or, being within doors, to escape its effects entirely. However, nobody grumbles, as it is the fashion to suppose that this wind cleanses the air and prevents fevers, which, it is feared, would otherwise be very prevalent, owing to the heat, and a naturally defective state of drainage. Whatever may be its effects, it is certain that this place is excessively healthy at all seasons.

The supply of water is just sufficient, with care and economy, to suffice for the wants of the population, and those of the numerous ships generally at anchor in the Bay during the summer months.

As that season advances, most of the residents who can afford it leave Cape Town for the neighbouring villages of Wynberg, Rondebosch, and Green Point, at all of which places, plea-

sant cottages, well adapted to the climate, and some of them delightfully situated, may be had.

In addition to the numerous and well-built public offices, churches, barracks, and forts, the Cape possesses one of the finest and most accessible public libraries out of England. The building appropriated to its reception forms a part of the Exchange, and is substantially handsome, and would, together with its contents, be a credit to any country.

The expenses of living I found, upon the whole, to be about the same as in England, although meat and fish are nominally less than half the price. Meat is certainly inferior; and although some kinds of fish are good, quantity rather than quality is the distinguishing characteristic of that species of food.

While on the subject of domestic economy, I may as well mention that at Cape Town, as elsewhere throughout the colony,

servants are somewhat scarce, exceedingly lazy and stupid, and cost about as much, altogether, as ordinary good English domestics. There are, as yet, but few European servants, of any kind, to be had; but the government is now, I hear, lending its aid to supply that want, by emigration. I propose, however, to enter more fully into the general question of emigration, as it regards this colony, in another place in this work, more fitted to the importance of the subject, than the first desultory chapter.

Before quitting the subject of Cape Town, I must add, that, I was much gratified by my intercourse with its inhabitants, and time has not weakened the impression I received on our first acquaintance. The merchants are liberal, gentlemanly, and hospitable, and the coloured population are orderly in their conduct; many classes of them being remarkably neat and clean in person and dress.

Towards the end of March, after spending a most agreeable fortnight in Cape Town, I began to get impatient to reach the eastern provinces of the colony, and to take possession of a considerable tract of land, (called a farm,) in the district of Graaf Reinet, to which I had become entitled, and I therefore embarked on board the Phœnix steamer, then just arrived from England, and plying between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, in Algoa Bay. After a beautiful passage of three days, the anchor was dropped, and having awaited the subsidence of a heavy surf, we landed on the following day.

If the traveller is struck by the sterility of Table Mountain and Green Point, he is likely to be much more dismally affected by the appearance of Algoa Bay. I shall never forget, on his first look at the place, the lengthened face of a jolly old major of the party, who had arrived from England to fill a responsible situation on the eastern frontier. He, as well as

many others of us, had read some of the glowing descriptions given of this part of the country, by persons whose interest it is to entice over settlers by any means, even the most dishonest, in order to have the benefit of plucking them afterwards. It is true that I had not believed the El-Dorado stories which are so current of this and other colonies, but my expectations had been raised sufficiently high to make the disappointment at the really desolate appearance of the place, perfect.

The Bay of Algoa is large and commodious, and has good anchorage; but it is dangerous during south-east winds, which blow in from the ocean, and bring in the long unbroken swell of the vast Atlantic. The surf, which is always high on the beach, is passed in large flat-bottomed boats, to a point where the back of a Fingo native affords the only means of landing dryshod. The town is composed of one irregular street, running parallel with the edge of the Bay, with numerous isolated

houses dotted about on the side of the hill, which forms the background.

Water is exceedingly scarce and very brackish, and generally disagrees with new comers. No vegetables or fruit of any kind can be had, except such as are brought from Uitenhage, a distance of twenty miles; and it is even difficult for a hardy team of the oxen of South Africa to pick up a scanty subsistence in the neighbourhood during the temporary sojourn of the Boër, whom they may have conveyed there for the purpose of disposing of his wool, or other produce, in exchange for the European goods he may stand in need of for the next year's frugal consumption. The soil on which the town is built, and by which it is surrounded, is of an arid, sandy nature, and, as a strong wind is usually prevalent here, unceasing clouds of it are hurled about with a violence which renders a walk in the street a most uncomfortable operation.

Port Elizabeth is, however, a prosperous

place, and is likely to remain so, as, with all its disadvantages, it is the best, if not the only accessible anchorage for ships of any size in this part of the colony; and hence it is, and will continue to be, the depôt for all the imports and exports of the eastern province, and of the produce of the country beyond the colonial boundary, to the north and north-east.

Algoa Bay is, at best, but a perilous road-stead for shipping, as the arrival of the south-east gales cannot, on this part of the coast, be foreseen, and the season in which they may be expected ranges over nine months out of the twelve.

The occurrence of such a gale is always fatal to a great portion of the shipping lying there; and even the best found ships have then but a poor chance of riding it out.

During the two or three occasions in which I have visited this place, the truth of these remarks has been fearfully verified by the

numerous recent wrecks I have beheld scattered on the shore. I must, however, add that, fortunately, "south-easters" are not the prevailing winds, but when they do occur, such is their inevitable effect.

The bustle and activity apparent on the beach are, however, cheerful and animating; yet no one can judge from such signs the real business going on, as this activity arises in a great measure from the slow and difficult process of landing goods through the surf.

This place possesses a very tolerable hotel, where the charges are moderate considering the difficulty of getting the supplies, which are all brought long distances—the poorness of the land round the town being such that no crops or vegetables can be raised.

The white inhabitants of Port Elizabeth are chiefly English; and among the coloured population, one is struck by the absence of the Malay race, who are so common at Cape Town. The style of living, manners, and conversation

here is considerably lower than at the Cape; and the commercial community rather give one the idea of a bustling set of "Yankee notion dealers" than of dignified British merchants. However, I found every civility and attention from the firm to which I had letters of introduction, and was indebted to them for much valuable assistance.

CHAPTER II.

UITENHAGE—CAPE WAGGONS—SPORT IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD—AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AND STOCK—MISSIONARY STATIONS.

AFTER remaining three days, I was fortunate enough to procure an ox-wagon to convey myself and family, with our effects, to Uitenhage. We joyfully quitted Port Elizabeth, on a splendid morning of the African autumn, and arrived at Uitenhage late the same evening. The country through which the track passes is generally very worthless, except for the production of salt, of which a great quantity of an inferior kind is made in some salt-pans, or lakes, seen from this road. We ob-

served sandhills garnished with large masses here and there of a matted jungle, composed of aloes, various kinds of prickly pear, euphorbias, and the thorny mimosa, but with little appearance of grass, or any herbage fit for pasturage; and here, as in almost all parts of the country, hundreds of large, bechive-shaped ant-hills of three or four feet in height, formed prominent features in the scene.

At about an hour's ride from Port Elizabeth, one is astonished at meeting with a substantial and even elegant farm-house and homestead in this wilderness. This place belongs to Mr. Chace, the author of a work called "The Cape of Good Hope." The size and beauty of the house form a striking contrast with the poor land by which it is surrounded, and they clearly prove that its owner is not dependent on sheep farming alone.

The road from Port Elizabeth is a fair sample of those generally travelled over at the Cape, and is nothing more than a series of

parallel tracks made by the passage of wagons, from time to time, through the sand and jungle, and is passable only by the excellent Cape waggons, with their teams of oxen or horses, or by persons on horseback. An English waggon, from its stiff and firm make, as well as from the weak quality of the wood used in its construction, as compared with the strength required here, would go to pieces very shortly, and, indeed, would be so liable to capsize as to be exceedingly dangerous. The Cape waggons are certainly excellent; each has the appearance of a neat, but long and light-covered caravan, and is built of such excellent wood, and is so well put together, that its pliancy prevents the danger of either upsetting or breaking down, except under the most desperate circumstances.

At a little less than midway on the road I am now describing, one sees on the left the dreary-looking missionary station, called Bethelsdorp, but having passed that, no more

signs of habitation are discovered till the traveller arrives at Uitenhage.

In looking at this part of the country, I was completely puzzled to guess what there was to support the few wandering flocks and herds which, though not seen, exist in small numbers even in this poor part of the country; and I must say that a further acquaintance with the pasture grounds of South Africa has done but little towards removing my first surprise on discovering that they preserve the present quantity of stock in the comparatively good condition in which it is generally found.

The beauty of the climate, however, does a great deal in diminishing the disagreeable feelings produced by the appearance of the country, and one is delighted with the extreme lightness and purity of the air. Although the sun is intensely powerful, a man at the Cape can undergo exposure to it not only without danger, but with less feeling of lassitude and weariness than he experiences in England

under the sickly warmth of its weak summer sun; except in case of exercise on foot, when he will find that the heat of the ground and of the sun will soon exhaust him.

Uitenhage is a remarkably clean and pretty village, exceedingly well watered, and laid out upon a regular plan. All the houses are in the Dutch style, and have productive gardens attached to them; but notwithstanding this, the village bears evident marks of decay, and its inhabitants are decidedly poor.

I found pretty good accommodation at the hotel kept here by an English couple, and, owing to various circumstances, was detained some weeks. There are but few means of getting rid of one's time agreeably in such a situation, but I had every reason to be extremely pleased with the attentions I received at the hands of one or two English families.

There is great difficulty in getting good shooting here, except at snipes, which abound in a small swamp near the village, and were

quite astonished at being fired at when I discovered them. In the jungle country, in the immediate neighbourhood, various kinds of antelopes exist, such as the bush buck, which is about the size of a fallow-deer; various red-coloured bucks, about the size of roe-deer, and known under the names of rietbok, greisbok, duikers, oribi; and the beautiful blue buck, a kind of gazelle, about the size of a large hare, but higher on its legs. There are tailless pheasants also, and partridges, but from the matted nature of the jungle, I was not very successful in my attempts to get game. At the distance of a few hours' ride from the village, the ferocious Cape buffaloes still wander in diminished herds; but they are seldom killed, as they inhabit the most impervious jungle, and few persons possess dogs with courage enough to attack and drive them through the passes, where a shot may be obtained.

The result of my wanderings in this neighbourhood convinced me that the district of

Uitenhage cannot be regarded as eligible for sheep farming. It is too bushy, and in most parts to which this remark is not applicable, the herbage is of an acrid description, which agrees but ill with this kind of stock; indeed, owing perhaps to this cause, there are but few good sheep to be seen in this district; but in Oliphant's Hoek, and in some other situations, cattle thrive pretty well, and excellent corn is produced. Continual irrigation is in most situations either necessary or beneficial for the successful cultivation of wheat, or other corn or vegetables; and in those valleys where soil, properly so called, can be found, it is extremely fertile, and in good years remunerates the farmer well, as it requires no manure, and a very simple system of agriculture is sufficient to excite its productive qualities.

Considerable quantities of butter are made in this district, and exported from Port Elizabeth for Cape Town, where it sells at a price inferior to that paid for the butter produced

in the Western district, but sufficient, I believe, to remunerate the sellers. The herbage, which is favourable to the production of milk here, is not in general healthy for young stock; so that, although the farmer in Uitenhage can sell more butter than the grazier of the interior, the latter is able to rear a much larger proportion of calves.

As a general remark, I have found, that wherever the land was fertile in South Africa, the pasturage is too acrid and rank for most kinds of live stock, which, with the exception of goats, have always in such situations an unthrifty appearance, and, in fact, are liable to so many diseases that the inhabitants of these localities generally procure the slaughter cattle and sheep required for their consumption from the Boërs of other districts, in exchange for the corn and timber of these countries.

I must not, however, forget to mention, that, in spite of the fertility of some of the land, the corn farmers of the district of Uiten-

hage, and indeed of the eastern province generally, have many difficulties and vexations to contend against, and that they are usually poor and live badly.

As a general rule, in the most fertile parts of the eastern province, the wheat crops are much exposed to destruction from a kind of blight, very prevalent, called "the rust." This curse is commonly most rife during years when the rains have been abundant, and everything wears the most luxuriant appearance. A total destruction of most of the wheat crops of Uitenhage and Albany has been known to occur several seasons in succession; but it may be expected to affect materially one crop in three. In drier seasons, this scourge is more limited in its effects; but then, of course, the crops are proportionably thin for "lack of moisture."

On most farms at all remote from the influence of the damp atmosphere of the sea coast, irrigation is resorted to; but it is an expensive

process, and requires a greater amount of labour than can readily be applied to it, even were its results certain enough to warrant its general adoption; and there are many farms where water is either too scarce to be employed in this way, or is situated at such levels as to be inapplicable. Although trees form no prominent feature in the general landscape of this district, there is a considerable quantity of timber of various useful kinds to be found in many of the ravines, or kloofs, among the mountains. It consists, for the most part, of the yellow wood, which is somewhat soft and brittle; and of stinkwood, which is a hard, tough, and elastic wood, of a very valuable nature for wagon-making, furniture, &c. And in some places that I have visited, the mimosa and other bushes attained almost the dimensions of forest trees, and indeed aloes and cacti, of scarcely less magnificent proportions, abounded, and more particularly in very rocky or worthless soils.

This very extraordinary feature in the growth of plants has been often made use of as the ground of argument; and a very plausible one it appears to the inexperienced, in favour of the general fertility of the soil of South Africa, and has afforded a semblance of truth to those glowing descriptions into which it has suited the purpose of some to indulge. Gigantic botanical specimens are, no doubt, very beautiful; but they are always most luxuriant on land the least applicable to the purposes of the agriculturist or grazier.

Most of the dwellings of the settlers in this district are small and bad; nor do either the English or Dutch inhabitants seem to pay the same attention to the comparative comfort and cleanliness which is to be found in many farm-houses in Albany or Graaf Reinett. I have here visited well-educated and polished Englishmen, who had resided for several years —which reminded me much of those to be seen in the remote Highlands of Scotland—without being able sufficiently to attach themselves

to the country to resolve to erect better habitations, even had they possessed the means, or been able to procure the necessary labour and materials.

There are in the district many salt-pans, which are exceedingly valuable, and from which the inhabitants for hundreds of miles round are supplied. Aloes, of the kind used in medicine, are plentifully scattered over the hills; but the quality of the drug obtained from them is not good, although it is saleable for exportation at Port Elizabeth. The easy task of extracting the juice of the plant is generally in the hands of that vagabond portion of the coloured population who hang lazily about the missionary stations; indeed, it is unworthy of the attention of the more industrious.

I cannot here refrain from remarking—and I believe my observation applies with equal truth to the existence of a similar state of things in almost all colonies—on the injury so often inflicted on the white population by

the establishment of these stations in their neighbourhood; and this injury is the more to be complained of, because it is so entirely opposed to the objects in view of the generous founders of the missionary system.

No sooner is a Hottentot, or other coloured servant, discontented or hopelessly lazy, than off he flies to the nearest station, where he can indulge in the greatest luxury he knows of—that of sleeping either in the sun or shade as his inclination may lead him, with the occasional variation afforded by participating in the singing and praying exercises of the more regular inhabitants of the place. I believe that, in general, the missionaries do their best to make amends for the temporal evils produced to the colony by their institution, by seriously endeavouring to instil a belief in Christianity among the natives, and thereby, at least, to benefit them.

Every one must appreciate the good intentions of the really conscientious members of

the mission; but unfortunately, the effect often produced is sadly at variance with the results which the means employed should bring about, and one cannot but regret that the evil arising from the fact of the missionary station affording an asylum to so many worthless characters, should so far frustrate the admirable objects of their supporters as to lead to the belief—which exists to a great extent in the colony, among those who judge from the results, without at all considering the means employed—that these establishments are more calculated to be productive of evil than good.

It is certain that, whatever may be the cause, it is very rare to find an individual whose moral conduct has been improved by a residence at a missionary station. It has been my lot to have many such in my service, and I must say that I infinitely prefer the more unsophisticated native, of any of the various races in the colony, to these converted heathens.

I am averse to plunge into the *vexata*

questio of the capacity of African natives generally, in their present state, to receive, be influenced by, or sufficiently understand the mystical truths of the Christian system; but I can positively assert that I have questioned many so-called coloured Christians, on the rudimental doctrines of religion, and not one did I ever find who could give me an intelligible answer even on the first principles of their adopted creed; unless, indeed, parrot-like answers to well-expected set questions learned by rote could be taken for such. I had once, while residing temporarily at Stellenbosch, a servant, who was upwards of fifty years of age, and although she possessed the average intelligence of her class, and had been in the habit of attending divine worship during the greater part of her life, and school three times a-week for many years, she could not then read the Bible, with which she was most familiar, without spelling most of the words, and could not even repeat the Lord's Prayer correctly, while her attempts

to explain the nature of the faith she professed to entertain would have created a laugh in the thoughtless, but would have aroused feelings of a far different nature in a thinking mind. Yet her state was neither better nor worse than that of the majority of her class and colour.

Where the fault lies, it is not for me to determine; but it is certain that those who so generously contribute to the establishment and maintenance of missionary efforts are grievously in the dark as to the actual amount of benefit created by their vast expenditure, and ought to be made aware that the benevolent enthusiasm so thrown away might, by the exercise of a little practical reasoning on this subject, be made productive of real good to the blacks, or be much more beneficially employed at home.

I am aware that opinions such as these are likely to be unpopular; but I distinctly declare them to be correct, and identical with

those entertained by that portion of the colonial inhabitants who have the best means of judging of the subject; and I would, at the same time, have it understood that I do not, by such statements, at all intend to impugn the moral characters of the missionaries themselves, which, as far as I have observed, are generally above reproach.

CHAPTER III.

AN AFRICAN FARM — WILD ANIMALS — DUTCH STOCK FARM — LOCUSTS — GRAAF REINETT — PRETORIUS KLOOF.

HAVING made the requisite purchase of horses for my journey, I quitted Uitenhage on a lively morning, in May 1843, accompanied by an intelligent little black boy, as a guide.

My first day's march was through a country covered with an almost uninterrupted mass of bush, and after leaving the immediate vicinity of the village, I do not recollect seeing a human habitation on the road or track, and but one small pool of stagnant water, till I

finally, "off-saddled" our excellent hacks at a farm belonging to an Englishman of independent property, at forty miles distance from Uitenhage. The whole of the intervening country bears the appearance of being in a great measure for ever doomed to remain as it now is; and can, at best, serve for the pasturing of a few herds of cattle or flocks of goats.

I was most hospitably received by the proprietor of this farm, and spent the rest of the afternoon with my host, who seemed to be getting tired of his occupation, and described his farming as a losing concern.

The stock on the farm, which consisted principally of goats, was just enough to supply the wants of his establishment; and I was given to understand that breeding sheep was a hopeless speculation, on account of the unfitness of the pasturage and the bushy tangled nature of the country.

Hyænas, here called wolves, were very

troublesome, and caused much annoyance and severe destruction amongst the poor goats; which, in addition to the ordinary visits of these brutes, had been attacked just before my arrival by one of the few lions remaining in this part of the colony.

The country through which the track leads, in quitting this place, was in some places grand in the extreme, but still hopelessly dry and inconvertible. I was particularly struck with the beauty of one ravine, which lay in the route I followed; it was shut in by rocky precipices of stupendous height, most luxuriantly encumbered by the unrestrained growth of the sweet-scented mimosa, and a very curious soft pulpy plant, known by the name of spec-boom or fat tree; together with other grotesque or beautiful vegetable productions of this climate.

In this defile there are several pools of muddy water filled by the preceding rains, and preserved from evaporation by the shade

of huge overhanging rocks. On the path, and around the margin of these pools, the wild elephants had left indisputable signs that they had only quitted the path at the sound of our horses' hoofs, which appeared of pigmy size by the side of their enormous foot prints. The horses were much alarmed at the scent of the elephants, and I cannot say that I felt quite at my ease, cooped up in so narrow a ravine with such company. Perched on the ledges of the rocks, on either side of us, were a vast number of the large Ursine baboons, which unceasingly croaked forth their hideous cry.

On emerging from this ravine, the country became undulating, but was still encumbered with jungle for many a weary mile. After several hours' ride, we dismounted, to allow the horses time to take that refreshing roll on the ground which is too often, at the Cape, the only relief those hardy animals get during, perhaps, a whole day. And after riding for a couple of hours more, we found a pool of rain-

water not quite exhausted, and again halted to allow our well-warmed steeds to drink.

Here I joined the regular road to Graaff Reinet, and passed two waggons, which were "outspanned" near the pool, and were conveying goods from the Bay (Port Elizabeth) to the village I have mentioned; and shortly afterwards I reached a rocky pass tenanted by the most exquisite floral productions of the country. On proceeding thence, I quitted those hills dependent on the picturesque and lofty chain of the hoary Winterhau, of which I had now an excellent view, and entered a district more open than any I had previously traversed.

A plain of considerable extent, dusty, of a brown colour, and dotted over with the most shrivelled tufts of small plants, had now to be crossed; and at the extremity of it I came upon the substantial house of a Dutch stock farmer.

It was stuck on the top of a naked, stony

eminence, and surrounded by large sheep-pens, principally made of the thorny mimosa bush. The stock, which was just coming in for the night, consisted of about 2000 head of sheep, some of which were of the woolled kind, but the majority of the African hairy and fat-tailed species, and the intermediate breed; and some goats. They appeared in better condition than any I had previously seen, with the exception of those forming the small picked flocks in the immediate neighbourhood of Algoa Bay.

At this distance inland, the effects of the refreshing sea breezes ceased to be felt, and everything assumed a harder and drier appearance, while cultivation of any kind was impossible, owing to the scanty supply of water, dependent on the rains, that was barely sufficient for the supply of the flocks, herds, and family of my host, and which was collected in a deep pit, not far from the house.

I could obtain nothing for the horses, but

they were allowed to drink and wander about on the well-trodden ground in search of anything eatable which might, perchance, have escaped the cravings of those which had preceded them.

On quitting this place, on the following morning, after an hour's ride, during which I saw many ostriches, a small troop of spring boks, and numerous beautiful birds of the bustard tribe, called, in colonial phraseology, "Paws," we came to a small range of hills, and, crossing them, entered a frightful country, which can only be described as a succession of low undulations, covered with large shingles, between which the most debauched-looking, stunted tufts of the poisonous and prickly euphorbia, with here and there a magnificent scarlet-headed aloe, forced their way. Nothing showing the existence of the animal creation was here to be seen, except a few locusts and other insects, and one or two of the small and noisy kind of bustards, called by the colonists

"Koërhaan," which, when they rose, made the desert resound with their harsh metallic scream. Water was more scarce than ever; and I met with none, except one spring of "Harrowgate water," which, to judge from the nasty effluvium it produced, must have been possessed of rare healing properties.

The maps of the colony indicate rivers of the most encouraging description in this part of the country. But the district itself presents only a series of dry water-courses, leaving evident traces of their capability of containing rain for some hours after storms. Towards afternoon, the line of mimosa bushes which marks the course of the Sunday *River*, became visible, and, on reaching it, we gladly pulled up at one of its pools. "The River," by courtesy so called, presents a deep, sandy water-course, which forms the bed of a flowing stream immediately after heavy rains, but is at other times only a succession of detached pools of water, either fresh or brackish, ac-

cording to circumstances. We crossed and re-crossed its bed several times; and at length, with hungry and tired horses, reached the farm of one of the original English settlers of 1820. We were received with the hospitality so characteristic of Englishmen abroad; and in addition to the pleasure which the reception afforded us, we had the satisfaction of knowing that our poor steeds were well cared for.

My host had, some years previously, quitted the fertile district of Albany, and leaving his family in Graham's Town, had, in company with some adventurous friends, crossed the Orange River to hunt elephants. In the new occupation to which he had been compelled to attach himself by reason of his having had his house, in the more favoured district I have mentioned, twice burnt about his ears by the Kaffirs, he had been so far successful as to enable him to realize sufficient money, by the sale of his ivory, to purchase the farm in which I found him, surrounded by more than the usual

comforts of a colonist in these parts. In addition to the good garden, containing orange and many other fruit trees, he had several acres of good alluvial arable land near the river; and with the aid of a mixed flock of a thousand sheep and goats, and a few cattle and horses, managed to provide for the existence of himself and family.

The corn crops, wherever they can be cultivated, are not so luxuriant as those produced nearer the sea, but they are less liable to be attacked by the "rust;" as if, however, to counterbalance this advantage, locusts occasionally visit, with their devastating effects, all the vegetable nature in their path, and leave the most destructive evidence of their presence. The farmers, on any indication of such a visitation, by making large smoky fires, and by other means, sometimes partially succeed in protecting their fields from total destruction; but, although they may escape the effects of any immediate consequences on the

first attack, they are liable to the more destructive ravages of the young generation produced from the eggs deposited by the first flight, and whose black multitudes, wingless as they are for a length of time, cannot be driven off, but must be suffered to hop about, ravaging everything, till their wings grow, and a gale of wind tempts them to a flight. In the interior of the country, the farmer may calculate upon such a visitation at least once in three years, while, on the coast, it is of less frequent occurrence.

My next day's ride, which led through a district cultivated in many places, and apparently occupied to the full extent of its productive capabilities, brought me to the comfortable homestead of an English gentleman, who seemed bent on developing the qualities of the soil of his farm to the utmost. He had a good supply of water from a dam made in the bed of a rivulet, which was skilfully utilized in fertilizing several acres of excellent corn

land, and a good vineyard, from which he made large quantities of wine and brandy, for which a ready but not very remunerative market is found at Graaf Reinett.

The hitherto interminable jungle ceased to grow here, and the herbage, consisting principally of "Karroo" bush, thinly scattered over a stony ground, was more plentiful than heretofore. This bush, hard and aromatic in its nature, and affording but a scanty browsing, is far more nourishing and beneficial to sheep than a more plentiful supply of any other species of food to be obtained in the colony, and the condition of my host's flock, amounting to 2000 or 3000 sheep, afforded satisfactory evidence of such being the case.

The severe droughts which form the great drawback to the colony, are in this part of it felt in all their intensity; and the dreadful losses consequent upon them fall but too heavily on the hard-earned savings of the more fortunate, and very often bring about the

ultimate ruin of the less successful of the colonists. Another and a more permanent effect of the same cause—viz., that of rendering the farmers migratory and nomade in their habits—will probably for ever forbid any great alteration for the better in the greater part of these countries, or in the character of their populations.

Early on the next day I started, and, proceeding over a dry plain, bounded distantly on either side by high rocky mountains, entered on the scorched and mirage-haunted pasture grounds of the "Spring-bok."

The animals so called are a species of gazelle-antelope, and tenant, in great herds, this part of the country, and that between it and the tropical "line." Several large flocks gambolled about on all sides of us, and, having overcome the scruples which the "confiding innocence" of their looks at us created, I could not resist firing several shots at some of them.

Such is the contradiction of human nature,

that although I did not at the time particularly desire to kill the objects of my sport, I was little prepared for the disappointment which the ill success of all my attempts to shoot them caused me. Every shot fell far short of the object of my aim, and although the game appeared to be within the distance at which I knew my excellent weapon would kill, I found that the ball, on every occasion of my firing, knocked up the dust on the safe side of the mark.

The fact is, that the optical delusion caused by the extreme clearness of the atmosphere and the brightness of the sun reflected from the dazzling ground, made everything appear to be at half its real distance, and had led me into the very harmless amusement of firing at game very far out of reach of the effects of any gun.

The winter was now fast advancing, but the days were yet very warm; indeed, they proved to my then untanned body distressingly hot.

After a pleasant canter of five hours, I reached the pretty village of Graaff Reinet; it contains, I believe, about two thousand inhabitants, of all colours. The houses, which are built in the Dutch style and detached, are ranged in very wide streets, which present a most pleasing appearance. They are planted on either side with orange and lemon-trees of the most beautiful growth, and here and there the splendid Ceylon rose-tree, which here attains its natural size, adorns the well-shaded footway. The supply of water is obtained from the Sunday River, and although managed with skill and economy, is barely sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants, and this must effectually prevent any great increase of the village, as no other water can be obtained in the neighbourhood. The gardens of this village are the most fertile I have anywhere seen, and produce, during the greater part of the year, immense quantities of delicious fruit and vegetables; but the nature of the soil and climate

demands a constant recourse to plentiful irrigation, without which no crops can be hoped for.

The inhabitants are chiefly Dutch, who, in spite of the fiery sun and light, invigorating air of Africa, acting upon many generations of their race, retain the phlegmatic appearance and bearing of the "swamp-bred" Hollander. There are some flourishing mercantile houses in the place, and a good proportion of business is transacted in it. A vexatious quietude, however, pervades everything and every one; and none of that bustling energy of our countrymen, which is looked upon by these slow thinking gentlemen as something quite ridiculous, is discernible in the trading operations of the imperturbable Dutchman. I had the good fortune to be present at one of the quarterly prayer-meetings of the Dutch church, which had been the means of bringing in great numbers of Boërs, some of whom had travelled many days to the village. The most wealthy of them arrived in well-built, light

waggons, drawn by spirited teams of from ten to fourteen well-bred horses, harnessed two and two, and driven in hand. The dexterity which these Boërs display in the management of their lengthy teams is really surprising, and would astonish not a little any of the four-in-hand gentry in England, who, in assuming that look of pre-occupation and conceit which seems to be inseparable from their performance, would make the uninitiated in such matters believe it to be a feat requiring no ordinary "kudos" to take care of four horses.

On this occasion, I saw a team of ten fine horses take fright, and run off with a waggon containing a Boër and his son; it was frightful to see them tearing along the streets, but truly admirable to witness the coolness displayed by the driver, who, having by dint of great dexterity managed to get clear of the village without an accident, at length mastered his steeds by "cramming" them up a very steep hill, on which he checked their speed; and turning round, drove back and pulled up

at the store from which he had been so unceremoniously hurried.

The mountains which closely surround Graaff Reinett, on all sides but one, are greener than those discernible from any other part of the route I had followed; and it is in this neighbourhood they begin to assume that marked conical form which is so remarkable in all the higher parts of the colony.

The oxen, used in many of the travelling waggons, particularly excited my admiration by their healthy sleek appearance. They were, generally, of the tall African breed, which is distinguished by singularly large horns of four or five feet in length. Of this species of stock I had hitherto not seen many, as nearer the sea-coast they have been crossed with various English breeds.

This improves the milch qualities of the cow, but spoils the stature, the working qualities, and the clean, round, and, at the same time, sinewy make of the native cattle.

Graaf Reinett, although situated at the foot

of the high range of the Sneeuwbergen, or Snow Mountains, is very considerably elevated above the level of the sea, and is exposed to great varieties of temperature. In common with all high plateaux of land in South Africa, this part of the country is very hot in summer, and the parching dryness of the air is such as to shrink even the best seasoned furniture or waggons, made on the sea coast, or in Europe, and for the first time exposed to its influence. For this reason, any one intending to settle or travel in this division of South Africa, should purchase waggons or carts in an "upland" village, as those not made and seasoned under the peculiar dry heat to which they may afterwards be subjected, frequently tumble to pieces in the first "hot wind" they encounter. Such articles, it is true, are very dear inland, owing to the great distance from which the materials for making them have to be brought, and a good ox-waggon complete, which does not cost more than 80*l.*, is not too costly with reference to its worth.

After a few days rest, I again mounted, and pushed forward towards my abiding place. On quitting the precincts of the village, the road traverses a plain, through which the serpentine line of bushes indicating the bed of the Sunday river is seen approaching the lofty range of the Snow Mountains, where it rises. I reached the foot of these mountains after two hours riding, and was assisted in the steep ascent of the first range by the only road, properly so called, which I had met with up to this time.

The pastoral capabilities of the country here began to improve, and I soon had evidence of their being well appreciated, by the numerous flocks which were to be seen grazing, attended by their ragged Hottentot or Fingo herdsman. The plains between the hills were plentifully supplied with tufts of the best kinds of "karroo" bush, and the hills nourished small tussocks of a greyish coloured grass, wherever the stones left space for them to grow. In this district, the substantial barn-like

dwellings of the real Dutch stock-farmer of the old school are scattered about at distances averaging about ten miles between them. But very few Englishmen are settled among these mountains, except in Pretorius Kloof, a fine valley a few miles to the eastward, which is a favourite locality. The land throughout it is good, and extensively cultivated, while the hills afford, and are made available as, excellent pasture ground. The farms there, which all, more or less, have the advantage of a good supply of water from the Sunday river, are within convenient reach of each other; and several of them are occupied by members of the family of the Southeys, creditably known by the courageous and active part they took in the Kaffir irruption, in 1834 and 1835.

Having crossed the highest part of the extensive range of the Sneeuwbergen, I commenced the north-eastern declivity, and after a day's ride of about sixty-five miles, reached my farm at nightfall.

CHAPTER IV.

THE AUTHOR'S FARM—SHEEP-FARMING IN THIS PART OF THE COLONY—WOOL—AGRICULTURE.

ON taking a survey of my location, I found my house a tolerable one, containing four rooms, provided with the usual mud-floors, but having the unusual luxury of reed ceilings; and my farm consisted of about 35,000 acres of mountain and plain, with the reputation of being one of the best in the district. The extent of my possession may appear, to English readers, enormous; but such farms

are common in the colony. The property cost about 2000*l.*, and is calculated to carry about 5000 or 6000 sheep, 400 head of oxen, and a troop of horses, in ordinary seasons; but this district is, as well as most others in the colony, subject, although to a mitigated extent, to those terrible droughts which happen about once in seven years, and prevail for perhaps two or three years in succession; and on the occurrence of such a visitation, so great an amount of stock would overburthen the place, and probably some loss would be sustained by deaths, were the flocks and herds confined within the limits of such a territory.

This plain statement is made, perhaps, against my own interest; and I am afraid the fact will appear poor in juxta-position with some of the magniloquent exaggerations we have seen published about the fertility of this colony.

Water is plentiful enough to allow of the cultivation of about sixteen acres of good soil,

and exists permanently in four small springs at different points of the farm. This is a good supply here, and is in proportion with the other capabilities of the place. Having bought about 3000 sheep, mostly of the woolled kind, and some of them of good quality, including about thirty mixed merinos and English rams, for about 10*s.* a-head, 300 full-grown cattle, at nearly 2*l.* each, and a few horses, I did my best to find competent herdsmen, and set to work as a stock-farmer. Then leaving my place in charge of an Englishman I had taken out with me, I set off to bring up my family from Uitenhage. This I accomplished in about six weeks.

I will now at once proceed to give my opinion on the troubles, advantages, and drawbacks of sheep-farming in this part of the country, in as concise a manner as possible, and without boring the readers with heaps of figures and statistics, as the grand total can be better arrived at in a few general remarks.

With considerable difficulty, I at length succeeded in getting three Hottentots to take charge of the three flocks my sheep were divided into, and another to look after the cattle. Their wages were nominally about 18*s.* a month each, but in addition to this, I had to find bread, corn, and meat for themselves and their numerous broods, and to make an allowance of tobacco, besides giving them pasturage for their little flocks of goats and sheep. The business of a herdsman in this country is this: in the morning, he starts into the hills with his flock, and remains wandering with it all day, until near sun-down, keeping it as much together as possible, to prevent the loss of stragglers, which are soon destroyed by panthers, hyænas, and jackalls; and about that time he returns with his charge to the homestead, and secures them in their pen for the night.

It is impossible to allow the sheep to remain out after dark, on account of the wild animals;

and in stormy weather my walled pens, although well bushed at the top, and above six feet high, did not sufficiently protect me from great losses by the hyænas, which, on such occasions, would often jump over and kill sheep, and sometimes carry one off in their mouths.

The destructive propensities of the beasts of prey are nothing, however, in comparison with those of the Hottentot and other herdsmen. Although constantly on horseback, and looking after these gentry, nothing can protect the master from their rapacity and laziness, unless his own family happens to contain six or seven adult males, some of whom may constantly be on the watch. In the patriarchal Dutch families, who herd much together, such is often the case, and that is the reason why these people are much more free from this kind of loss—occasioned by a want of incessant supervision—than the English settlers, whose children leave their father's house as soon as they are old

enough, and, adopting isolation themselves, oblige him to seek hired services in their stead.

On counting over his flock in the evening, if the farmer misses any sheep, the usual practice is to scold the herdsman, and send him off in search of the strayers. He sometimes, it is true, recovers some of the missing, but is in general quite careless whether he does so or not, as he knows his master cannot dismiss him, in consequence of the difficulty in filling up his place, and the loss sustained during the time consumed in the search for a successor.

Thus it is that the sheep-farmer is at the mercy of these fellows, whose few wants render them very independent of service.

Of the districts which I have seen, I prefer that of Sneeuwberg for extensive sheep farming, as far as pasturage is concerned; but it has the drawback of being very distant from a market for the surplus stock which a farmer

may wish to dispose of. It is only by being well situated near a township that sales can be made at all profitably, except when a general demand is made upon one part of the country to supply any extraordinary losses or demands in another.

A great many exaggerated notions have been spread abroad as to the great profits to be made on wool. The fact is, that wool, of whatever quality it may be, never pays more than four per cent. upon the value of the flock under any circumstances; the very best and highest priced wool, perhaps, is less profitable than the good middling qualities, as, in order to produce it, the farmer makes too large an outlay in rams and ewes of pure breed. The highest price he may obtain for his clip, and the occasional loss, which the greatest care cannot prevent, of a few valuable animals of that kind, sometimes make a desperate hole in his annual account. The accuracy of this remark is borne out by the important fact that many enterpris-

ing individuals, especially in Albany, have tried these things on a large and expensive scale.

There are usually two lambing seasons in the year; and I think it would be better to have only one, if any reliance could be placed on the occurrence of a good supply of food during the season for putting the rams into the flock; but as it is, and if it proved dry during that period, by such a course all might be lost for the year, as in that case the lambs would be few in number, and so very delicate, that great numbers would immediately die.

In my opinion, the farmer who can annually increase his flock by one-fourth, or augment the value of it in an equal ratio, after deducting the number consumed for food, and the ordinary losses by sickness and other causes, may esteem himself fortunate in the extreme. The diseases of sheep in South Africa are of a very fatal character: the scab is peculiarly prevalent, and causes great loss in the article of wool, and

occasionally is fatal to the sheep; but violent inflammations of the lungs and intestines, common after rains when herbage is plentiful, and a consumptive wasting, to which these animals are liable when the pasturage is scanty, are singularly destructive; and when once a sheep is attacked by either of these maladies, it is worse than useless to attempt a cure. There are other diseases known by various barbarous names, but these are the most serious and remarkable that I have observed.

Every now and then, too, the average before alluded to will be fearfully trenched upon by unforeseen and extraordinary circumstances. Sometimes violent inflammatory epidemics cause awful destruction, in spite of all the care that can be bestowed. At other times, especially during a prevalence of dry weather, sheep will browse on poisonous bushes, which they will neglect at other seasons; and numbers perish in consequence. Storms of hail,

of extraordinary violence, often occur; and I recollect one of my neighbours losing upwards of 300 valuable sheep in a few minutes from the effects of one. Another farmer, living at no great distance from me, lost 1500 sheep in one season by deaths from drought; and on my own farm, shortly before I became possessed of it, 400 sheep were destroyed by lightning in a moment.'

These are not extreme cases, but those upon which the farmer must reckon in this colony.

Many people not acquainted with the country, fancy that all the increase in the number of the flocks represents a proportionate augmentation in value; but such is not the case, since woolled sheep have a natural tendency to deterioration in this climate, and in a few generations, notwithstanding the greatest care, the wool begins to show a tendency to assimilate itself to the hairy nature of the coat which is the natural covering of the indigenous animal.

To prevent such deterioration, and to counteract, in some measure, that which may be apparent, a constant importation of fresh English rams must be had recourse to; and the expense of this preventive, in consequence of the necessary frequency of its application, is out of all proportion with the profits to be realized by the farmer. This disadvantage is, of course, never alluded to by the puffers in books and newspapers, whose object is to allure people into the colony; but the stubborn fact, nevertheless, remains undeniably evident.

And now one word with regard to the sale of wool. This article, and goat-skins, hides, and fat, either in its natural state or converted into soap, according as it may be found convenient, are the chief of the really saleable commodities produced on a stock farm. The fleece is, of course, the most important in value, as no part of it is consumed on the spot, whilst the demands of the household

exhaust a very large proportion of the other productions, and reduce them to a very portable bulk, even on the largest farms.

Buyers and merchants, and the gentry, whose trade it is to endeavour to gull people with the idea that some great and mysterious success is to be derived by the adoption of some peculiar process not generally appreciated, greatly cry up the benefit that sheep-farmers would derive, if they would well wash and "get up" their wool. This is done for the purpose of diminishing their risk in estimating the weight of unprofitable matter it may contain, and the cost of its transport to its final market in England.

The farmer, however, should sell his wool unwashed, as the difference in price between washed and unwashed wool will by no means make up the deficiency occasioned to him by the loss of weight in washing, the occasional damage to the sheep by the process, and the cost of the extra labour (if haply he can procure it) in

this country. I have tried both plans, and speak advisedly.

By the way, such a process as washing and "getting up" may answer the purpose of a few persons who are near the coast, and breed rams for sale, and who like to show the high price they have obtained for wool, no matter at what cost, to the new-comer in search of stock.

It is much better generally, be it remarked, to sell wool at the nearest market, and not to be tempted by the advance of price to be obtained at the shipping port, unless the farmer is near that place. I once suffered considerable inconvenience and loss from having sold, and contracted to deliver, my wool at Port Elizabeth—a distance of perhaps 300 miles from my farm, having been tempted by a higher nominal price than I should have obtained at Graaff Reinett. My waggons and their loads were detained upwards of two months at the latter place, in consequence of

the want of water on the road between it and Port Elizabeth, before the bursting of a thunder-storm again supplied that necessary element along the line of communication.

Before quitting, however, the subject of sheep farming, let me add that it is the part of the colony I am now describing (Sneeuwberg), together with the adjacent range of the Newfelt in the Beaufort district, which furnishes the supplies for the distant Cape Town markets with the sheep and oxen required, and replenishes the deficiencies caused by sickness, Kaffirs, or the demands of the Commissariat among the flocks and herds of those parts nearer the sea coast. The situation is, therefore, a favourable one.

I defy any one to name me one sheep-farmer in the Eastern Province, (depending on the profits of his farm,) who is either contented with the results of his farming, or is not grievously indebted to his storekeeper, except among the old-established and primitive

Dutch families, who spend no money in manufactures, and have but little to spend had they the habit.

This rotten state of things is unfortunately general through the colony, and is more conspicuously evident in Albany, which is inhabited in a great measure by English, and which has been more written upon and praised in respect of its pastoral superiority than any other part of the colony.

In agriculture, no manure is required for land in the Sneeuwberg district—in fact, its application, when attempted, has always done harm; but constant irrigation is necessary to the growth of all crops. If the season during which corn is growing is dry, the crops are proportionally light as the water becomes more scarce, and they cannot be sufficiently irrigated; on the other hand, if the season is a wet one, the quantities of insects produced, and the storms of locusts, which at such times

generally appear, are much to be dreaded, and often cause the greatest destruction.

In spite of all that has been said on sheep-farming and wool, I am inclined to think that, in a colony like this, goats would answer the purpose of the settler much better as stock in most situations, if properly attended to, and the utmost possible numbers kept. A good flock of goats may be purchased, as they run out, at about 2*s*. 6*d*. or 3*s*. per head. The skin of a full-grown goat generally sells for 1*s*. 6*d*. or 2*s*.; the fat produced from each animal in good condition is worth about as much, and the carcase remains on the profit side of the bargain. Those carcases not required for food, and for which a market could not be found, might be boiled down for tallow; and would, by that process, yield a large quantity of superior quality, which from its hardness bears a high price, and is susceptible of preservation for a great length of time, if necessary.

The goat increases much faster than the sheep, but the kids require a little more care than lambs. They are subject to fewer diseases than sheep, but are more likely to be attacked by a fatal kind of scab than that animal; and when so attacked, are more difficult to cure. At present, the usual method is to kill at once all goats found to be affected with this disease, as no effectual remedy has been discovered, and by such means the chance of contagion is diminished.

In the first year of my residence, the season was rather dry; and the crops on the arable land, although not heavy, could not be complained of. The second season was wet and warm, and I lost the whole of the growing crops, of every description, by the locusts; it is, however, but just to say that in a season when the "juste milieu" is hit, the yield is good in quality, and extraordinarily abundant.

The climate in this district (Graaf Reinett) is, at times, oppressively warm in summer, more

especially during the hot winds which come from the interior, and are of pretty frequent occurrence. In mid-winter, (July,) I saw a good deal of snow on the lofty Compassberg, and occasionally the valleys are visited by storms of it, which are severely felt, owing to the scarcity and bad quality of the fuel, composed of the dung dug out of the sheep-pens, and stacked for the purpose. All seasons are healthy, and the only violent disease known is a kind of inflammatory rheumatism, which is occasionally very prevalent, and sometimes fatal.

After residing upon my farm some months, the total impossibility of obtaining the necessary domestic servants entailed such hardships upon my wife, that I resolved to establish her at Cape Town. Having consigned the management of my stock to my brother, and made the necessary travelling arrangements, we joyfully started for that delightful place. I may here remark that I have never seen an English

woman in the colony, at all raised above the very poorest, who did not complain bitterly of the inconvenience she endured when living on a farm; and I really know nothing more affecting than the sight of the often elegant-minded and well-educated sheep-farmer's wife, struggling with the drudgery of her situation, and repining fruitlessly at the deceptive accounts which had induced her husband to seek his fortune in South Africa.

During the rest of my residence in the colony, I divided my time between domestic and farming duties, as I best could. A journey of 800 miles is a serious thing in such a country, when of frequent recurrence, but I rather enjoyed than disliked it.

CHAPTER V.

HERDS OF WILD ANIMALS—VULTURES—THE LION-HUNTER—HYÆNAS—COLESBERG—GRIQUA, AND OTHER HOTTENTOTS—THE ORANGE RIVER—BOËRS—RESULTS OF EMANCIPATION—BUSHMEN.

SHORTLY after my return to the farm, I set out on a visit to the district of Colesberg, and the country across the Orange River; and, adopting the usual mode, I yoked fourteen stout oxen to my waggon, which was well provisioned with Cape flour, sugar, and salt, and a supply of arms and ammunition, wherewith to attack the game.

Four good strong horses, for hunting purposes, followed or preceded this "locomotive machine;" and as the occupation of driving the oxen, or of leading the horses, is one well suited to the habits and taste of the natives, I had no difficulty in procuring a sufficient number of the latter to accompany me.

At about nine miles from my house, I entered upon those large, elevated plains, here called "flats," which extend—varied only occasionally by the super-position, as it were, of a few table or conical hills—to an almost unknown distance, towards the tropics. They are, in most cases, covered with game; in some places immense herds of springboks, thousands in number, are seen; in other places they are intermingled with many troops of grotesque gnoos, and of the heavy-looking quaggas; elsewhere are ostriches, while numerous flocks of the beautiful Balearic cranes everywhere stalk about in search of insects and bulbs.

The country here is not well enough supplied with permanent water to permit of its being much inhabited by farmers. A few years ago it was much infested with lions, but now they are rarely seen, and then only during or after the emigrations of those vast herds of springboks which often pass over this country after a continuance of south-easterly winds, and cause the entire destruction of all the pasturage in their route.

Some idea may be formed of the extent of this plague, when I assert that I have seen a column of these animals of at least fifteen miles in length, and so closely packed together in some places, that nine of them fell at one discharge from a large gun. These columns march on in unbroken masses, till they reach the high mountains which bound their native plains; in ascending these, they become dispersed by the nature of the ground, and then great havoc is committed among them by all in

the neighbourhood who possess guns, and not a few become victims to the rapacity of the panthers and hyænas inhabiting those regions.

Diverging a little to the eastward from the road to Colesberg, the succession of deep pools called the Seacow River is found; but—owing to the poor quality of the pasturage, the frequency of the droughts, and locust storms on these plains, the occasional fertility always caused by the presence of water in South Africa—is abandoned, in a great measure, to the free flocks and herds of game of all kinds which abound in this region.

On some of the flats near Rhinosterberg, I saw many troops of quaggas, each containing several hundred, and gnoos in equally strong numbers. The more rare hartebeest—a large antelope, of the size of the Scotch red deer, and much prized by the sportsman—is found; and numbers of beautiful bustards are often seen in small packs of from four to a dozen.

These animals are all exceedingly shy, and, as the country is entirely open, the hunter often sees thousands without being able to kill one of them. The usual mode of attacking antelopes, gnoos, or quaggas, and that which I have often adopted, is this: having decided upon the herd best suited for the purpose, the hunters approach quietly on horseback till within four hundred yards of them, when they generally manifest uneasiness, and begin to move slowly off. On pressing them at the horse's best speed, the animals make a rush; and then, if the hunter can go the pace quick enough to cross the line of flight taken by the column, at a reasonable distance, he pulls up suddenly, dismounts quickly, and fires into the cloud of dust enveloping the rushing crowd of fugitives. Very often the ball does execution, but more frequently, strange to say, the best rifle shots fire in vain.

There are many reasons for this. Even the light and elegant springbok, delicate as it

appears, will gallop off, apparently unhurt, although pierced by a large ball, unless it happens to strike the head or heart, or break a hind leg.

As for the gnoos and quaggas, they are exceedingly tenacious of life, as I once experienced, by being obliged to riddle one of the former with eight balls, of twelve to the pound, before he fell.

The sport in this country is of the most exciting kind. Everything within ken is wild and extraordinary; and the swift charger, carrying the sportsman, as is sometimes the case, into the very midst of the whirling columns of the object of his pursuit, is magnificent. The sport has also its risks; the ground is frequently full of holes, large and small; the larger ones are made by the great ant-eater, and the small ones by colonies of little animals resembling the squirrel, but rather larger, and who form a kind of warren in the softer and more sandy portions of the plain, which break

in with the horse, and bury him up to his shoulders in the dust and rubbish, amongst which his rider is then pretty sure of finding himself on his back.

Sometimes a wounded gnoo or quagga will charge its pursuer, and I have twice had narrow escapes from the former animals, by dropping them when they had almost reached me.

A most extraordinary circumstance attending the fall of game on these large plains, is the instant arrival of considerable numbers of large vultures. The object of pursuit is, perhaps, killed in the middle of an immense "flat," the regularity of which is not distorted by a hill or resting place of any kind, which could screen an object from view. The death-struggle is, however, not over, before these grim attendants on carnage come flapping round, or stand at a distance, watching impatiently till the sportsman, having packed such pieces of meat as he requires, has departed.

Then, according to the size of the remains, these disgusting creatures may be seen tearing them to pieces, and gorging themselves to the utmost. For some time I could not imagine whence they arrived, but happening to look up perpendicularly one day, immediately after having killed a springbok, I noticed several small black specks at an immense height; the size of these objects gradually increased, till the form of the vultures became distinctly seen.

They were in the act of descending from those regions of the atmosphere where, it would seem, they remain poised, and on the watch. The height at which they station themselves must be very great, to render such large objects, in such numbers, invisible to the eye.

What wonderful visual organs must they possess, and how extraordinary must be their power of wing, supposing that the same amount of exertion is necessary to support them in their aërial lairs, as would be the case in the ordinary atmosphere nearer the earth.

I have seen specimens of many of the African animals in the zoological collection in England, but what a contrast do these present to the superior sized and better proportioned denizens of the wilds. The specimens sent home are always caught young, and the confinement they suffer on board ship, and the change of food and climate, prevent their attaining much more than half their natural proportions.

To return to my journey. About half way between my point of departure and Colesberg, I halted near the substantial and large house of a well-known Dutch farmer and lion-hunter, (since dead,) bearing the harmonious cognomen of "Cornelius Vischer."

His farm was well watered, and the pasturage on it pretty good; but his position was such as to expose him to much loss from locusts, and the migrations of "frek bokken," or spring-bucks, which often sweep over this district, not to mention the inconvenience of having to provide pasture, at all

seasons, for many thousands of antelopes and other grazing wild animals, which always feed at his expense, when not driven away by excessively dry weather.

Cornelius told me that he had killed upwards of a hundred lions on his property, during his occupation of it, but that of late he had not seen many in the neighbourhood.

After drinking a few hospitable "soupies" or drams, with him, I again pursued my delightful journey. The weather was beautiful—neither too hot nor too cold; and what with the freedom felt in travelling in this country when comfortably provided, the excellent sport always within reach, and the good behaviour of the "black fellows," who were allowed to shoot as much as they pleased, and as often as their miserable muskets would strike the necessary fire, I enjoyed my trip most thoroughly.

Shortly after leaving this place, I met a Boër's waggon, containing his wife, two children, two half-grown lions, and other sundries.

The lions had been taken in a pitfall, at a short distance on the other side of the Orange River, and they had already become so tame, that one of the vrow's children was sitting unconcernedly between them.

The farmer intended to sell his captives at Graaf Reinett, where I afterwards saw them awaiting carriage to the coast, whence they were to be dispatched to England.

On the same day, I fell in with a troop of the hunting species of the hyæna, here called "wild dogs;" they were fleet-looking animals, of a greyish colour, and seemed half inclined to assume the offensive, but at last left me, much gratified at their forbearance to attack, as I was alone, on foot, and, although armed, far from the waggons. I had no sooner got clear of my friends, than I disturbed the slumbers of one of the common kind of hyænas, of immense size. He jumped up close at my feet, and much startled me at the moment, but knowing the cowardly nature of the tribe,

I saluted him with a ball, which broke one of his hind legs, and he limped unresistingly off.

After a few days' slow travelling, I reached the curious little village of Colesberg. It is a strange place, built up and down among some singular small conical hills, formed literally of loose rolling stones of a red ochre colour, and destitute of all vegetation. I passed a few very pleasant days in this village, where I found a detachment of the 91st Regiment, from the officers of which I received much kindness and hospitality. I need not say what a treat it is to meet with really well-bred companions in such a situation, nor how much more such intercourse is valued, when contrasted with the rough, unpolished exterior of everything, and almost everybody else to be met with.

The trading concerns carried on here appear very flourishing, and much more extensive than the size of the place would lead one to suppose.

The stores of Colesberg, however, supply all the inhabitants of the extensive district bearing the same name, and that of "Hantam," and the Boërs settled on the other side of the Orange River in all directions, with their necessary provisions, in hardware and other merchandise; and it is the nearest market to which they resort to dispose of their wool, fat, and skins.

At the period I am now alluding to, (June, 1844,) Waterboer, the chief of the Griqua tribe of Bastard Hottentots, who dwell on the other side of the river, was encamped here with a large number of his followers. His visit was an official one to the authorities; but he and his attendants were not above taking advantage of the occasion for trading purposes, and were carrying on an active barter for guns, ammunition, knives, &c., with the skins, carosses, (beautifully worked cloaks, made of fine skins, and used in the colony, or sent to Europe as rugs, blankets,

and ornamental coverings of tables,) ostriches' feathers, cattle, and curiosities they had brought with them from Griqua-land.

They had some good waggons, and their teams of oxen were the handsomest I have ever seen. Those belonging to Waterboer were of immense height, of a glossy brindled yellow colour, and striped like tigers.

These people have a very strong infusion of Dutch blood in their veins, as their stature and colour clearly indicate; the matted and scanty wool covering of the real Hottentot's head has given place, in many instances among them, to glossy black hair, and the fleeces of those who do not possess a head of real hair, are not quite unmixed with that much envied ornament.

In other and more important matters their advantages over the unmixed aboriginals are very marked. They possess a settled government, adapted to their wants; and have, on several occasions, exerted their power to pro-

tect and assist the colony in time of danger. It is to be hoped that this friendly understanding with the British government will last long, as they are useful friends in peace; and should a war break out between the Boërs on their side of the river, and the colony, their position, numbers, and bravery, would be of great importance to the side they might espouse. They are, besides, a strong fence against any irruption of the barbarians from the north-east.

The white inhabitants of Colesberg consist, in a great degree, of colonial Dutch; but many Englishmen are settled there in various trades. Among the coloured races, a remnant of pure-bred Hottentots exists here, and a few half-reclaimed Bushmen are now and then to be seen. Colesberg is one of the few spots where any number of the unmixed Hottentot race can now be found in the colony; but there Venuses "of that ilk," of the most stupendous proportions, are not

rare, nor, judging from appearances, were their attractions unappreciated by the gallant fellows of the 91st.

When a few years shall have passed away, the last of the Hottentot race will have passed with them; and, after all, they will not be much missed. It is true that there is nothing very vicious in their character, but they are generally so improvident, and so averse to a steady industry, and so careless about bettering their condition, or, to speak more correctly, of adding to their wants, as to be very unfit to exist among civilized communities as free agents. Ever since the philanthropical humanity of Great Britain conferred upon them complete liberty, these child-like people have been rapidly diminishing in numbers. They have expended the boon in a most lavish way; and, having no one to care for them, and not knowing how to care for themselves, the dram-bottle of the white man has done its work, and they have perished.

The havoc, however, caused by the emancipation of the blacks was not confined to the Hottentots. All the "servile race" suffered in a due proportion, and perished in thousands in all directions. None of the frightful horrors of the much talked of "middle passage" could surpass those endured by these hastily made freemen, on their transition from the state of well-cared-for slaves, to that of unprepared, neglected, and dissipated free vagabonds.

The numerous measures taken by the colonial government to check and ameliorate this disastrous state of things were not entirely without effect in some localities; but the records of these endeavours prove clearly the frightful state of things to be dealt with.

This district (Colesberg) is almost entirely pastoral, and very little agricultural produce is raised. Water is scarce; but there are many farms well adapted to sheep and cattle; and in some parts, a considerable number of horses are bred. That part of the country

known as the Hantam is more especially famous for a most superior breed of hardy and powerful coursers, whose merits consist in possessing good speed, and a most extraordinary power of endurance on hard fare. Droughts are of frequent occurrence, and entail great losses; and, in general, the district presents a dreary and monotonous aspect but ill suited to the taste of English settlers. Fuel is scarce and bad; and in the winter the winds are cutting enough to make a good fire necessary for at least two months.

Quitting Colesberg in the morning, I reached the banks of the Orange River late in the evening. The sight and sound of such a body of water was most delightful, after the arid scenes I had been long accustomed to. At this time the bed was very full, and the stream as broad as the Thames at London Bridge, but very rapid, and encumbered with rocks. Sometimes, for many months, the width of the stream is diminished more than one-half, and

at times it is not much over a man's ankle in depth at the fords.

On crossing it the next day, I had to attach light perishable articles and ammunition to the roof of the waggon; and at one time I thought all would have been carried down the current. The oxen were swimming, but behaved gallantly, and, at last, dragged the waggon, and all its contents, safely to the other side. For my own part, I had the misfortune to attempt to cross on a horse unaccustomed to swimming, and he got so exhausted in the middle of the passage as to perform a complete somersault in the middle of the river, and with difficulty, owing to the roughness of the water and the rocks, I reached another horse a little in advance, and holding desperately on to his tail, he dragged me out of the scrape. My poor horse was washed away for some distance, but, at last, landed safely lower down.

Altogether, this was a wild scene; and the

rushing sound of the mighty stream, mingled with the anxious shouting of the men, the loud snorting of the plucky oxen, and the affrighted horses, made an impression on me which I shall not easily forget. Having mounted the much-desired bank, I found the party of Griquas I have before mentioned encamped; they were making for their homes, and had crossed the river the preceding day. After a little conversation, and having dried myself at their fires, I bought, for a bottle of brandy, a rather greasy broad-brimmed felt hat from one of "these native gentlemen," to supply the place of a similarly useful article I had lost in crossing the river. This was a great prize, notwithstanding a certain dash of ancient odours which appertained to it, as, although it was now winter, the sun was almost every day powerful enough to render such a protection necessary to a northern head.

The country immediately near the river, on the side on which I then was, was composed

of low rocky hills, pretty well covered with tufts of grass, and a few bushes. Here and there, houses or huts were seen, inhabited by gentry who rather like to have the river between them and the law.

I saw several flocks of sheep during the first two days after crossing the river, but no game, except a few bustards, and some large flocks of wild Guinea-fowl. These birds run about with such swiftness on an open plain, that it is next to impossible to get at them; but if once driven among bushes, they lie well, and afford excellent sport, with a good dog, and are, besides, a very good addition to the contents of the camp kettle.

Some people like the bustard, but the flavour of its flesh is too "gamy" for my taste. They are rarely killed with shot, as they walk about carrying their heads and bodies high above the herbage, and, of course, see their enemies afar off. I generally shot them with a rifle, and as many of them are as large, and much

resemble Norfolk turkeys, they afford an easy mark at any distance within one hundred and fifty yards.

During the first two days' travelling, on one of the many tracks which led towards Natal, the country remained much as I have before described it; but on the third day, it began sensibly to improve on all I had hitherto seen in South Africa.

Instead of the perpetual jolting which had rendered the journey so unpleasant up to this time, the waggon now rolled silently and easily over the grass of beautiful and well-watered downs of immense extent. The grass was a kind of bent, and where it had not been fed off, it waved beautifully in the wind, and gave the country the appearance of a boundless corn-field.

I met with one or two neat farm-houses, and some waggons and encampments of Boërs proceeding towards the Modder River and Natal. I struck up a friendly acquaintance

with some of them, who were very kind and civil when they found that I was not connected with the government of the colony, and was not a military man; but they, one and all, entertained most hostile feelings towards the lords paramount at the Cape. They complained that the sudden emancipation of the slaves and Hottentots had deprived them of the means of living either profitably or comfortably in the colony, and most bitterly reprobated the exaggeration and falsehoods which had, in many instances, been spread abroad, on their general treatment of the coloured races, by interested missionaries, and other purveyors of horrors; and added, that not only was the compensation given for their slaves miserably small, but that the difficulties, delays, and formalities to be undergone, before they could touch the money so given, were so great and costly, as to render its acquisition scarcely worth the trouble.

There must be some truth in all this, when

we consider, that for these causes they, and the majority of the richest and most respectable of their countrymen, have quitted the lands on which they were born, and to which they were attached, in many instances, without even attempting a sale of their properties. In other cases, they disposed of valuable farms for the new gun or waggon, or some such consideration, offered to them in their misery by the rapacious speculators on the temper of mind into which this state of things had driven their victims.

The hasty, fanatical, and oppressive manner in which the emancipation of the slaves was conducted in this colony, has been the means of driving into the lawless regions beyond our real control five-sixths of the wealthy and most respectable of the Dutch Boërs, and of converting these previously loyal subjects into bitter enemies, as well of ourselves as of the native inhabitants among whom they are located. Such was the haste with which it was thought necessary to endow the as-

tonished bondsmen in this and other colonies with liberty, that the ruin and misery of their white brethren were not taken into account, lest, in considering any means by which they might be mitigated, time should be lost, and the wretched saturnalia delayed for a brief space.

Let no one, however, imagine that I am an enemy to the complete freedom of any colour or race of the human family. I only regret that while one hand was employed in the beneficent operation of severing the bonds of the slaves, it should have been thought necessary to employ the other, allied with the tongue, in the ruin of their former masters. It seems to be, unfortunately, essential that oppression should exist in all nations and societies, and it has been lately the rage to suppose that white shoulders are more capable of bearing with impunity the heavy burden than black ones. Let sleek humanity-mongers and the perplexed, but kind and well-meaning, John Bull, settle these matters in the best way they

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can; and I now hasten on with the relation of my trip, all the merrier for having, at least, attempted an honest blow at "humbug."

In passing over the fine downs, mentioned previously to the foregoing digression, I was astonished at the scarcity of game. With the exception of a large snake of the hooded species, larger than any I had yet seen, and a few isolated antelopes, I saw nothing wild; but after two days' further advance, I suddenly fell in with immense herds of gnoos, vast numbers of the beautiful blesboks, and other kinds of antelopes in great quantities. I have no doubt that, at times, there were 20,000 of such animals in sight.

The grass was here well kept down, of course, but the appearance of the country was green and pleasing. I fell in with a small number of Koranna natives, who were very stupid and timid, but who eagerly accepted the game which was not required by our party.

I began to hope that we should soon see lions, but throughout the journey I was disappointed in this respect, and I afterwards heard that shortly before I was here all the neighbouring country had been hunted over, by large parties of the emigrant Boërs, who had been most successful in their sport, having killed a vast number; the animals that escaped had betaken themselves elsewhere, out of reach.

After proceeding through this pretty country, in a winding course, for a few days, I found that the feet of some of my oxen were much injured, and I therefore encamped near some wild olive bushes, by the side of a small chain of rocky hills, well supplied with water, and swarming with partridges. I here amused myself for some days, during which the animals I chiefly fell in with consisted of the common and brindled species of gnoo, and the large antelope called the "blesbok," and the springbok. The blesbok are in vast numbers,

but are so shy and swift as to be very difficult of approach. They are of a rich cinnamon colour on the back, with a white "blaze" on the face, and have large lyrated horns. The country, however, being undulating, I tried, and succeeded, by "stalking," in killing several of them. The Boërs laughed at my "modus operandi;" but then they have no idea of shooting at a single animal, always endeavouring to drive the herds together, and blaze into the mass.

Besides, their heavy, smooth-bored guns, carrying a ball out of proportion large, with the quantity of powder that a man can fire from the shoulder, do not shoot well above eighty yards, but drop the ball too much for correct firing, and therefore for stalking purposes. This may sound strangely, after the accounts that have been given of the prowess of the Boërs in ball shooting. I once saw six of their "crack" shots shoot for a prize, at Colesberg, and, at one hundred and fifty yards, only one ball, out of eighteen fired, struck a target of six feet square.

After the cattle had become somewhat better, I felt much inclined to proceed further, as lions were reported to be plentiful, at a short distance to the northward; but I could not afford the time, so I was reluctantly obliged to set out on my return towards the colony. For this purpose, I took a different route, and crossed the Orange River on a raft kept by an enterprising Scotchman, who is settled on the colonial side of the stream. As the character of the country I passed over on my way homeward differs in no material point from that through which I travelled "outwards," I will not weary my readers by particularly describing it.

The only variety of zoological nature which I saw, consisted of a small number of Bushmen, who made themselves visible one day. They are a hideous little people, and an unprejudiced observer is obliged to confess the humiliating fact that they are apparently the race which forms the link between man's proud and lofty nature, and the beasts that perish. Even the zealous missionaries know,

but cannot acknowledge this, and have been obliged to admit the impracticable nature of these beings.

I do not say that it is impossible to teach the Bushman anything. He, in common with the more intelligent races of dogs and other animals, may be taught certain things, and even more than those creatures; but his faculties are of an exceedingly low order, except in very rare specimens, and are never strong enough to outweigh the power of the brutish instinct which will confine him to his present sphere as long as the race exists. The language of this people consists of but very few words, and is pronounced by "clicking" the tongue against the palate, producing the effect on the hearer of the inarticulate chattering of the monkey. The number of Bushmen is now very small, as their country is occupied by the grazier; and wherever they go, "their hands being against every man, and every man's hand being against them," the remnant of them will soon be destroyed.

CHAPTER VI.

ALBANY — GRAHAM'S TOWN — FARMING IN AFRICA — BATHURST — VAGARIES OF ROAD-MAKING — BEAUFORT — THE GREAT KARROO — THE BLACK MOUNTAINS.

In this and the succeeding chapters, I shall endeavour to lay before the reader my opinion of all the remaining districts of the colony with which I am acquainted; and having, I trust, in the foregoing part of the work, related with sufficient particularity the usual incidents and methods of travelling, I propose now to

confine myself to the results of my observations in the several journeys I afterwards took, without entering into a methodical detail of travelling adventures.

The district of Albany is one of the most interesting provinces of the colony, and has, certainly, a mixed reputation, which has always been sufficient to attract much notice.

Advancing into this district from the Uitenhage side, and having, at length, got free from the immense jungle called the "Addo Bush," the country begins sensibly to *improve* in appearance. It is true that large, isolated masses of brushwood, and great numbers of bare ant-hills, still disfigure the face of the landscape; but vegetation is stronger, and becomes more refreshingly verdant, while considerable plains, well occupied by numerous flocks of sheep, and herds of an improved race of cattle, are seen. The pretty village of Sidbury, and the handsome homestead of Mr. Daniell, enliven the scene; population increases, and

assumes a more English aspect, which is evidenced by the greater pains bestowed on the creature comforts of the traveller; and at length, Graham's Town is reached, under impressions of rather a favourable kind.

The white inhabitants of this town are chiefly English, and the total population of the place amounts to five thousand; the coloured races consist of Hottentots, Fingoes, and the Malays, together with a few unsettled-looking Kaffirs, who may be seen parading insolently their conspicuous nudity in all directions. As this place is near the extreme frontier, many red jackets may be observed, and there is generally a squadron or two of the extraordinary-looking but efficient Hottentot mounted rifles stationed there.

The peculiarities most strikingly developed in the true Albanian Africander are the love of their country, (a feeling always existing, and meritorious in a troubled frontier line,) a praiseworthy energy in all their occupations, the

exaggerated notions of their own importance, (common and useful to all busy, little, isolated communities,) and a kite-flying system of business which has but a bad reputation in the more staid and solid counting-houses in other parts of the colony.

The real prosperity and success of a mercantile concern here depends almost entirely on the expenditure of the commissariat; the only real cash transactions going on are those with that department, and with the officers, civil and military, of the province; and the well-being of the commercial community depends exclusively on the number of government officers and troops stationed along the frontier. A Kaffir war, therefore, if carried on as the one just concluded has fortunately been, in a great measure, in the ememy's country, is the great touchstone of this town's prosperity, as, although a few farmers here and there along the frontier line may be ruined, still the loss to the community is amply made up by the

flourishing trade created by the war, especially as the cunning trader never trusts the ruined farmer beyond the annual value of his wool, and therefore does not risk much.

The liberal expenditure of the rich and luxurious dragoon regiment on the frontier has done much for Graham's Town, Fort Beaufort, and the dependent posts; but when peace with the Kaffir tribes becomes more permanent, and enables government to reduce the forces, the day will be a sad one for this part, at least, of the Eastern district. In fact, all classes, not excepting the generality of the farmers, profit by the state of warfare, except just at the spots where the sudden irruptions of sable invaders are accompanied by the "burnings" and losses of stock generally consequent upon similar irruptions. This will be readily understood when I say that the farmers dispose of horses, cattle, and provisions at the same, or for a higher price, when their production is not more difficult, uncertain, or

costly than when they had no sale, or but a poor one, for such articles, if haply the seasons had permitted their acquisition on their or our territory, or fresh arrivals of emigrants with capital (poor fellows!) had provided the means of purchase in other districts, or from beyond the colonial boundary, at cheap rates.

These facts, heretofore clouded over and disguised, are necessary to be known and promulgated, and a proper appreciation of them, by the government and individuals, must have its importance. Sheep-farming in this district is carried on extensively, and many spirited individuals who had capital have succeeded, as their now empty pockets would testify, in breeding some very superior flocks. The occupation, however, cannot be said to be successful, and the proof of this is, that in the whole district scarcely a single sheep-farmer can be found who has not suffered the consequences of insolvency, unless such a fate has

been averted by resources not derived from his occupation.

As a lure to people in England, ignorant of all this, Mr. Chace mentions, in his account of Albany, the names of several gentlemen in that province, whose possession of large *nominal* capital in the shape of sheep was held out as a proof of what may be made in this pursuit; but I have not heard that he has since thought it necessary to Gazette the insolvency, ruin, and selling up, not many months after the publication of his work, of the very meritorious and enterprising individuals he then quoted as so prosperous. I must add that these failures were not occasioned by extravagance or mismanagement, but simply by the profitless nature of the occupation on an extensive scale in this country. Fatal inflammatory diseases, and others occasioned by the sudden luxuriance and sour succulent qualities of the pasturage after rains, are here very destructive to all

kinds of stock. To compensate for this, however, long-continued droughts are not so common or destructive as in the higher districts, nor are all parts affected by either scourge to the same extent.

Thus, it will be seen that the farmer is, in this country, always checkmated, as it were, by the natural order of things: luxuriant-looking pasturage is of poisonous quality, and the more wholesome kinds scanty in quantity and liable to be fatally diminished by dry seasons. Crops of corn, and all kinds of vegetables, grow most abundantly, and are cultivated at but little expense in most parts of Albany; frequent and heavy losses in wheat crops, however, may be expected from the "rust," and less frequent and more partial destruction from the attacks of locusts.

When a large general yield of grain occurs, it must be sold at a very low figure, as there is great difficulty in preserving it for better *prices*, for want of granaries and barns, which would

be too expensive to erect, and would, after all, but ineffectually guarantee it from the attacks of the numerous animals and insects which swarm in this climate. If sold for a good price in such a season, to persons inhabiting other districts where the crops may have failed, the expenses of transport would form a serious item of deduction from the general profit.

Upon the whole, and supposing a permanent peace with the Kaffirs to be brought about, a farmer, with a moderate capital, if he is prudent, and avoids launching out too far in his operations, may here contrive to live pretty well, and will enjoy the benefit of one of the most healthy and lovely climates in the world, and a much greater liberty of movement than in England. This district would, moreover, suit a person with a small independent income, having a taste for a colonial farmer's life, and who would only look to his farm for assistance, and not as an investment likely to return him great interest for money.

At short distances from Graham's Town, especially towards the coast, numberless situations may be found possessed of all the requisites that such settlers can expect. In following nearly the course of the Cowie river, the beautiful village of Bathurst embellishes a landscape eminently picturesque and fertile. It is hardly possible to see a more lovely village than that which has been aptly named the "Richmond of South Africa," and the country for miles around is not only grand and striking, but is of a character more likely to recommend itself to the English taste than any I have seen in the Eastern Province.

Great exertions have been made, and long sustained, by a gentleman named Cock, and by others, to render the mouth of the Cowie deserving of the name of a harbour, and safely available as such for shipping of a class sufficiently large to bring freights from Europe. Hitherto, the difficulties and dangers attending the passage of the bar, so universal on this

coast, had been but slightly lessened, and the most sanguine well-wishers of the enterprise have but small hope of permanently overcoming them. If success should at length attend these efforts, it is needless to expatiate on the advantages which the mercantile community of the district would derive from the vicinity of such a harbour, saving, as it would, the long and difficult land-carriage from Port Elizabeth, whence all European goods are now forwarded over a track which cannot be made into a good or permanent road, unless at an expense out of proportion to the value of the improvement.

The effectual amelioration of the roads in the colony is, from the nature of the soil and climate, a work of immense cost and difficulty, and it is greatly to be feared that certain road-making vagaries, by which persons in power, at the seat of government, have of late been actuated, will be found to have occasioned a wasteful expenditure of large

sums of money which could ill be spared. Economy, in this respect, is necessary for the advantage of the colony, and is of far greater importance to the inhabitants than the advantages to be derived from good roads; for it must be remembered that the mileage is out of all proportion to the population, and that distances travelled over in a given space are regulated more by the state of pasturage, and the supply of water to be met with, than the consideration of the ease or difficulty with which the slow-footed ox can convey his load. His pace cannot be greatly increased on a good road, and the number composing the team is but of little importance where the pasturage of the "outspan platz" costs nothing.

The mania for road-making is one of the most extravagant that can be indulged in, anywhere; but in such a colony, in addition to its costliness, it is extremely impolitic, as the discontent created by the imposition of heavy

taxes to support such an outlay, will always be more inconvenient than the amount of benefit conferred by good roads will repay. The Boër and the carrier in South Africa have plenty of time, horses, and oxen, and but little money, and therefore dread taxation much more than a bad road, although the latter may be a sore impediment to the paces of a Colonial Secretary's hobby. Moreover, the "torrential" rains often experienced, falling, as they do, on a hard, baked soil, and forming rushing rivers in all directions, at certain seasons, for ever forbid, the hope of rendering any road proof against their effects, unless at an expense not to be thought of in so poor a colony. The labour, too, which such works require, being paid for above the current rate, absorbs a vast amount of that requisite commodity, and the want thus occasioned creates general distress. I am convinced that the present government would do well to restrict its operations of this kind to such an amount as might be performed

by the convict labour disposable for such a purpose, and which would be quite sufficient to render the most difficult ravines and mountain ranges passable, and to maintain in repair the existing military roads necessary on the frontier, among which that from Graham's Town to the Tarka is the most important, connecting as it does all the military posts in a line parallel with the Kaffrarian boundary.

Perhaps some of my readers may be disappointed that I do not here add a description of the neighbouring districts of Somerset and Cradock; but as I have never been in either of the two villages, I cannot venture to give any account of them. I have always heard the Somerset district well spoken of, and the selection of a spot in the vicinity of its chief town, for the establishment of a *government model farm* goes far to recommend the comparative capabilities of the country. In general, however, these districts so exactly resemble, in their general features and pro-

ductions, those on which I have already written, that a minute description of them would only form a tedious excuse for book-making. It is but right to add that Somerset is rarely exposed to those Kaffir depredations, so frequent in Albany, and Cradock is quite removed from any danger on that score.

Beaufort is the next place with which a journey made me acquainted, and although far from being an attractive locality, it perhaps merits a little attention. It is situated on the very edge of the inhospitable wild called the Great Karroo or Desert, and which, although I have traversed its greatest length, I shall not further describe than as being the hottest, driest, least-inhabited, or habitable, wilderness I can form any idea of. It is true I passed through it in the middle of summer, and as a proof of the intensity of the heat, I may mention that the thermometer during the day, under the shade of a triple waggon-tilt, of the thickest materials, with a current of air blowing through it, generally stood at 96 degrees, and that the

highest indication of the quicksilver was 125 degrees; but, fortunately, this only lasted a few hours, or I believe our splendid team of fourteen fine, but exhausted horses, would have perished.

The village of Beaufort is situated in a large burnt-up looking plain, at the foot of the Newfelt range of mountains, but is generally pretty well supplied with water from the Gamka or Lion River. The houses and streets do not bear that neat appearance so observable in many of the villages in the colony, and the *tout ensemble* presents a dusty, untidy look.

The Karroo soil, where it can be irrigated, is extremely fertile, and the fruit trees and gardens are consequently exceedingly productive, when the supply of water is sufficient to allow of the necessary irrigation of it. I remarked that the figs here were the best I had tasted anywhere, and the quantities of all kinds of fruit trees in the village were astonishing. The principal street is planted with

rows of the finest mulberry trees I have ever seen, which, when I was there, were profusely covered with ripe fruit, which, however, was neglected even by the children, owing to its over abundance.

Among the inhabitants a good many English are to be found, carrying on the business of storekeepers.

The limited quantity of water supplied by the Gamka River, the uncertainty of rains, which here sometimes do not fall for years together in any quantity, and the whole nature of this dismal district, will, in all probability, for ever preclude any large increase in the population within its extended boundaries.

The lofty Newfelt mountains rise from the plain to the north-east of this place; they contain the best pasturage in this part of the country, and much resemble, in their general characteristics, the Sneeuwberg, of which range they form a prolongation. The climate, however, among these hills is rather drier than

that of the Sneeuwberg, and the inhabitants do not in general exhibit that appearance of pastoral wealth which is conspicuous in the farms on that range.

Several English families are now, however, settled on stock farms in the Newfelt, in the best of the localities, which the great migration of Dutch Boërs towards Natal left vacant, after the effects of the emancipation of the slaves and Hottentots had begun to be experienced.

The pasturage in these mountains is scanty, although wholesome and nutritious; but the privations and inconveniences experienced by the settler in such remote and inaccessible situations, are not compensated by any extraordinary success they there meet with in pastoral pursuits over farmers living in more desirable situations.

In consequence of the immense distance from any seaport at which the more habitable parts of this district are placed, and of the

scarcity of water and pasturage on the roads towards the coast, European goods are much dearer at Beaufort than in the other villages; and, from the same cause, the farmer derives a diminished advantage from the sale of such articles as wool, hides, tallow, &c.

On the south side of Beaufort, the vast desert called the Great Karroo extends its arid plain, and one hundred and fifty miles of it must be crossed before the traveller can reach the mountain chain called the Zwartberg, or Black mountains, which create a tremendous barrier between the wretched country he has been toiling through, and the more favoured districts bordering on the coast.

The appearance presented by the first, or the easterly range of the Zwartbergen, is of the most melancholy kind, and it is impossible to conceive any scenery so lofty, romantic, and rugged, which is, at the same time, so incapable of calling forth any of those pleasing sensations with which mountains seldom fail

to affect the traveller. All here is a chaotic mass of dark red and black rocks, of the most angular proportions, and totally devoid of any apparent vegetation; and a long and weary day's march among these recesses has to be endured before reaching the ridge which overlooks one of the beautiful valleys of the George district.

Here, at length, the effect of the sea air begins to be perceived in the verdure which clothes the face of the country; and the breeze is no longer that hot, burning blast, so disagreeable in the upper districts and the Karroo country, more especially during the summer months.

CHAPTER VII.

GEORGE DISTRICT—ZITIKAMA FOREST—WILD ANIMALS AND REPTILES—ZWELLENDAM—WORCESTER—STELLENBOSH—CAPE WINES.

In the district of George, the mountains run in parallel lines, or chains, east and west, and inclose some long valleys, or kloofs, containing excellent land, generally well-watered; in many cases, as in parts of Outeniqua Land, profusely so, and abounding in corn, wine, and fruits. The hills afford fair average pasturage,

but, in general, this part of the country is certainly more adapted for tillage than for stock farming on a large scale. Wheat crops are here not exempt from the "rust," any more than those in Albany and Uitenhage; and cattle and sheep are subject, in an equal degree, to the diseases affecting such stock in those parts.

In the upper part of the Long Kloof, and in many of the valleys to the eastward of the Cradock Pass, and amongst the mountains which intervene between them and the more western parts of the country, handsome houses, with substantial out-buildings, are met with at short distances apart. Indeed, many of the houses in the neighbourhood I am now mentioning, may be considered not only good, but ornamental in style and arrangement; and their inhabitants have a civilized bearing about them, strongly contrasted with the rough manners and wild slovenly exteriors of the Boërs and their habitations, in the grazing districts.

The coloured population, too, seems of a

better class, and fully to appreciate the benefits of a residence in such a locality, and for this reason servants are tolerably plentiful in the district of George, and of a better description than in most parts of the colony.

Great quantities of fruit are grown in George, and peaches, pears, &c. are dried in the sun, and sent to Cape Town, where a ready market is found for them.

In a line parallel with the sea, but everywhere exposed to the beneficent influence of the peculiar atmosphere it occasions, the extensive forest of the Zitikama extends over mountain and valley, from the mouth of the Knysna, in George, far into the Uitenhage, and supplies the colony with timber. Much of the scenery of the forest country is magnificent in the extreme. The beautiful lake formed by the mouth of the Knysna is of most surpassing loveliness, and the grandeur of the surrounding hills, covered by a waving forest, perfects a landscape unequalled in South Africa.

Here many colonists, in easy circumstances, dwell, and derive support by selling timber, rearing cattle, and the cultivation of the arable ground. From the beauty of the country, or some such cause, the land in this vicinity sells at a price which is far beyond its present real value as an investment, and is, in general, occupied by persons who do not by any means rely on its produce for a livelihood. Cattle seem to thrive pretty well in many parts of the district of George, and an easy market is found for such as are broken to draught, by sending them towards the Cape.

Horses are subject in many parts of this district to severe attacks of the fatal "sickness" peculiar to similar situations; and much loss is occasioned by it, in seasons when the disease is very prevalent.

In the forest of Zitikama a few elephants still exist, and are sometimes, although rarely, seen in the more eastern parts of it. The buffalo is still plentiful, while the Ethiopian

boar, the koodoo, boschbok, rietbok, duiker, klipspringer, and other antelopes, are plentiful. Among the beasts of prey, the leopard and panther are very common, and numbers of their skins are sent to the Cape. Baboons, and numbers of small monkeys, are everywhere met with, and make the forest re-echo with their varied screams. The feathered inhabitants comprise various kinds of eagles, including the black species, which is by some said to belong exclusively to South Africa, the secretary bird, the condor, and Egyptian vultures, hundreds of other birds of prey, besides pheasants, partridges of two kinds, Guinea fowl, some species of parrots, loris, and infinite varieties of the beautiful sugar-bird, some of which do not exceed a large bee in size.

Serpents of many kinds are, as in most other parts of the colony, numerous. Those most commonly met with are, the cobra-capella, which sometimes attains a length of ten or twelve feet—the puff-adder, a short, thick

snake, of a very deadly kind—and the tree-snake, which is not so venomous as most other species. The bite of all, except one, of the different sorts of serpents in the colony, is generally fatal very soon after the infliction of the wound, and many instances of loss of life annually occur from this cause, especially in the more grassy districts bordering on the coast, both eastern and western.

Amongst the mountains of the Zwartberg, the famous Congo grottoes are situated, and, to the lovers of subterranean wonders, are especially interesting, not only from their immense extent, but from their beautiful formation, and the magnificent stalactical formations with which they abound. These caverns extend about 1500 feet directly into the mountain, and can be penetrated by the adventurous without much difficulty.

The traveller from the Eastern Province must surmount the difficulties of ascending and descending the stupendous and difficult

Cradock Pass, before he reaches the village of George. At the time I passed over it, government was employing all the available labour in the very useful task of forming a new road over this defile, in a much better situation, and of better construction, than the one then used. This work will be a great blessing to travellers with waggons through this part of the country, and will be as much appreciated by those interested as many other of the road operations are deservedly condemned, in the present circumstances of the colony.

The situation of George Town, at the foot of a chain of the greenest mountains in the colony, dotted over with numerous clumps of trees, and itself standing in a plain covered with green herbage, more like rough turf than any I have seen in South Africa, is delightful. This township is neatly built, and commands a view over a fertile and well inhabited plain, which reaches nearly down to the ocean. It is altogether a most desirable place of residence,

and especially as the vicinity of the high mountains and the sea renders rain more plentiful, and the climate more invigorating than that of the greater part of the colony.

At a distance of twenty-five miles from the village, Mossell Bay affords an anchorage for ships of moderate tonnage, as safe as most of the harbours and roadsteads on the dangerous shores of South Africa, and many small vessels are employed in carrying freights of wool, and other produce, to the Cape market, whence they return laden with European goods, for the consumption of the interior.

From what I have seen of the district of George, I am inclined to think that few places offer such inducements to a settler seeking tranquillity, and appreciating the enjoyment of a delightful and singularly healthy climate. At the same time, the society to be found in this neighbourhood is also very good, and all desirable comforts and conveniences are easily accessible.

On the whole, the products of a farm here are as profitable as in other parts of the colony, and, in most seasons, corn enough can be raised, and a sufficiency of good wine and brandy made, not only for home consumption, but for advantageous exchange with the inhabitants of the more exclusively pastoral districts, for the live stock that may be required. The mixed European and African breed of horned cattle succeed well here, and give a great deal of milk, the butter from which is sent to the all-devouring "Cape" in considerable quantities.

An easy day's ride from George Town conveys the traveller into the Zwellendam district, and the new village of Riversdale is soon seen, situated in a well-watered and fertile valley. This place looks clean, and flourishing for its size, and will, I have no doubt, increase in importance. The country passed through between George and this place, and that which intervenes between it and Zwellendam,

has the appearance of being well adapted to sheep and cattle farming, and, in general, all the flocks I saw were very healthy, and were said to succeed pretty well.

Almost every valley in Zwellendam contains extensive tracts fit for the plough, and all kinds of garden produce and fruits grow well. The "rust" is not so generally destructive here as it is more to the eastward; and, upon the whole, Zwellendam may be reckoned the best district in the colony for a settler to locate in, with a view to profit, if he has sufficient capital. Farms bear a price proportionate to their real value, and although a man may buy a farm too dear in this district, I will insure him against all chances of getting one cheap, with reference to colonial prices.

Numbers of English of a superior class are settled here, and many of the Dutch farmers are men of liberal education and polished manners. A great number of horses are bred in the Zwellendam district, for the Indian market

at "The Cape." The establishment of Mr. Cloeté, on the Breede River, is very extensive; and when I was there, he had on his place several hundreds of beautiful horses, and was in possession of English stallions of the best blood, some of which latter had cost immense sums. The "horse-sickness" is, unfortunately, not unknown even here, but at times commits dreadful ravages among the herds of horses which are obliged to remain at pasturage during the periods of its visitations.

Great numbers of excellent mules are bred by many farmers hereabouts, and they are of large size and excellent quality. Many of these animals are used in and about Cape Town, where they are much appreciated for their working qualities and hardy nature. Still greater numbers are exported to the Mauritius, and afford a profitable consignment. I am only surprised that mules are not more generally used throughout the Colony, as they are longer lived, quite as strong as oxen for

draught, infinitely quicker, and more frugal, —and, for the same reasons, are, in such a country, infinitely to be preferred to horses for long journeys. Sheep and cattle, in this district, appear singularly healthy; and the wool, owing, I suppose, to the equable temperature of the climate, is of very superior quality.

The town of Zwellendam is well situated, on the banks of the Breede River, and contains, I should think, about 2000 inhabitants; the houses are generally built in the Dutch style, and look substantial and comfortable. It is difficult to imagine anything prettier in its way than the main street in this place. Communication with "the Cape" is very easy, as the roads are good, and are practicable for a species of mail-coach which, at the time I was there, regularly performed the journey, and conveyed passengers to and from that place.

Near the mouth of the Breede River, a new town, called Port Beaufort, has sprung up,

and I regret that I had not the opportunity of seeing it. St. Sebastian's Bay, into which that river empties itself, is sheltered from the most dangerous winds on this coast; and, from what I have heard, I believe that Port Beaufort affords all the accommodation for shipping that the trade it can command is likely to require.

On some of the plains of Zwellendam, considerable herds of the beautiful bontebok—an antelope as large as a fallow deer—still exist. They are protected from indiscriminate destruction by the government, but permission to shoot them is easily obtained by residents. The rheebok is found on the hills; and among the bushes on the plains, the duyker, grysbok, and steinbok antelopes abound. Bustards of various kinds, but smaller than those in the interior, are everywhere abundant; and in no district did I see so many partridges as in this, especially near Cape Agulhas, where they literally swarm. Venomous serpents exist in

great numbers, and a respectable Dutch farmer assured me that the loss caused by their biting the sheep was considerable at times.

Proceeding up the course of the Breede River from Zwellendam, the district of Worcester is entered. A detailed description of the country passed through in this route would be useless, as it, on the whole, much resembles in climate, soil, and productions, the district of Zwellendam, almost to the point where the village of Worcester is placed, where the vicinity of the Karroo is apparent in the soil and the dry look of the herbage. There are, however, large tracts of land bordering on that desert which are as fertile, as well peopled, and as far advanced in everything as any part of the colony. The valley of the Hex River exemplifies this remark, and contains within its bounds houses and farms not surpassed in the colony. The more northern portion of Worcester district affords pretty good pasturage, but it is in general a thirsty land, and not calculated to support a large

population. The inhabitants struck me as being peculiarly rude and boorish in their manners, and in this respect, as well as in their slovenly habits, presented a strong contrast to others at no very great distance from them.

The town of Worcester is laid out on an extensive plain, and covers a large space of ground, but its white population did not appear to be proportionately numerous, or to exhibit much that is worthy of remark. Towards the Breede River, a large swarm of colonial people inhabit a great number of mud huts, and live on the produce of their gardens. Listlessness and indolence appeared to characterize this motley assemblage; nor is it to be wondered at that such is the case, since the immense fertility of the Karroo soil, of which their gardens are composed, requires only the application of the water, which is there everywhere available, to render the most primitive husbandry productive of results which satisfy all the wants of its occupiers.

At the distance of a couple of hours' ride from Worcester, hot mineral springs exist, and are the resort of many rheumatic patients. The water in them is very hot, and the sources more copious than any spring I have seen in South Africa.

This district is well worthy the attention of a person seeking a property in the colony, as many parts of it are alike suitable to agricultural and pastoral pursuits, and produce is readily and profitably disposed of. All kinds of stock are as healthy as in any part of the country, and labour is more easily obtained than in the eastern districts. The aspect of the country is not so pleasing as in George or Zwellendam, or in many parts of Albany; nor is it so forbidding and haggard in its appearance as Graaf Reinett or Beaufort. Communication with Cape Town is tolerably easy since the completion of a fine road over the long and precipitous Franschoëk Pass, which, in former times, offered an impediment the difficulties of which retarded for a length of

time the natural progress of things on its eastern side.

Stellenbosch is the next division which merits attention, and it is in many respects an important one.

The village of that name is beautiful, and is, as usual, laid out in regular lines. The streets and square are planted with rows of trees, which afford a grateful shade; and water everywhere abounds. In its gardens all the colonial fruits and many tropical productions flourish; and on the sides of the surrounding mountains, and in the valleys known as Jonker's Hoëk and Waggon-maker's Valley, the large and even elegant homesteads of the wine-farmers are met with in great numbers. An easy ride of three hours from Stellenbosch conveys the traveller to the Paarl Village, which is probably one of the best built and prettiest in the world. A great quantity of wine is made here; the best kinds are very good, and some of them much resemble those of southern Spain. Not far on the other side of the vil-

lage of Stellenbosch, the valley of the Earste River extends for some miles, and is thickly occupied by some of the richest colonial Dutch wine farmers now remaining, who live in a style seldom met with in other parts of the colony.

The wine-farmers cannot, I am sorry to say, be accounted a prosperous race at the present time, as their occupation requires a greater amount of labour than they have been able to command at a moderate price since the emancipation of the slaves; and, for some reason or other, the wine does not fetch so good a price as in my opinion it would supposing the best qualities were sent to market; which is not the case, owing to a jobbing system among the large buyers, whose interest it seems to be to obtain quantity rather than quality, and who thus limit the consumption of Cape wines in England, in a great measure, to the demand for them by the merchants, by whom they are used to adulterate sherry, Madeira, &c.

I have been assured by wine-farmers, over and over again, that they cannot, in the present state of things, afford to make good wine for the market, as it would not command a price in proportion with the cost of production; and the smallness of capital employed will not allow them to wait till such wines shall have obtained a character, which they certainly have not at the present moment, and which could alone bring about a beneficial state of things in this trade. Be this as it may, wine farmers inhabit better houses, and their mode of living is more civilized and comfortable than that of any other class of farmers in the colony, especially where the nature of the soil enables them to cultivate corn crops in addition to their wines, which is generally the case. The limited extent and the nature of the pasturage of this part of the country, preclude the possibility of breeding live stock to any extent, and the farmers are, therefore, in the habit of taking wine and brandy into the pastoral districts at

certain seasons, and of exchanging it for the cattle and sheep which they may require for temporary purposes.

Few colonial communities were, perhaps, better off than the inhabitants of this neighbourhood before they were ruined by the extinction of slavery, or rather by the unfortunate mode in which the abolition was effected, but now the wine districts may be considered as rapidly declining in prosperity, as most of the proprietors are reduced to live on the capital amassed in more prosperous days, and regard with hopelessness the success of any patchwork legislation, should pity or remorse induce even such an effort in their favour.

The people of England have yet to feel, in the utter ruin of this, and many of her more important colonies, the effects of the fanatical haste and indiscretion with which slave emancipation was carried out, and class legislation applied to her colonial system. The inhabitants of the West Indies and of the Mauritius

are already reduced by ruin to a state of despair, from the effects of which it is doubtful whether the most powerful and well-meant efforts can rescue them; and in the event of a war, it is not difficult to predict that they may escape our grasp, or be only prevented from doing so by a most disproportionate exertion of force.

At the Cape the same measures have produced similar sufferings, and a degree of discontent exists within the colonial boundary, and of bitter animosity among those who were driven to seek refuge in Natal and the neighbouring districts, which will not fail, sooner or later, to result in disaster. Already Natal has been the scene of warfare, which is not yet forgotten; and in the numbers of Boërs now settled there, or wandering over the vast tracts of country between that settlement and the Modder River, it is easy to see an enemy growing up, far more formidable than any the colony has yet suffered from. It

will cost this country immense trouble and expense to overcome them, should a war break out, or govern them in peace with the authority necessary to prevent these refugees from reducing the natives to a state of slavery far worse than could have existed within the more manageable extent of the original colony, of which they were once loyal inhabitants.

A wide field here exists for the exercise of that wisdom and discretion, the absence of which has hitherto rendered the colonial policy of the mother country so unfortunate everywhere, and the temper of the times will render it imperative in the government to practise such discretion for the future, if, haply, there be yet time and means left to render a step in the right direction of any avail.

I must say I am rather astonished that the production of silk has not been attempted on a considerable scale in this and other similar parts of the colony. The mulberry tree seems especially suited for the soil and climate, and

in a very few years attains a size to which centuries would never force it in the best parts of England, and it preserves its leaves for by far the greater portion of the year.

It would seem that the silkworm could nowhere find a climate more congenial with its nature, or where its productive qualities could be more fully brought out. The temperature is warmer here, and more equable in most favourable situations, than that of most other silk-producing countries. The nature, also, of the occupation required in carrying on such an industry would appear peculiarly adapted to the taste and capacities of the people who would be employed; and the lightness of the article produced would render its transport to market a very easy and inexpensive affair.

An experiment, at least, of this nature might easily be made, as there are many situations where, at the present moment, hundreds of mulberry trees exist, for the leaves

of which there is no use, and where, consequently, arrangements might most easily be made with a view to utilize them for the purpose hinted at.

In fact, this colony is in the greatest want of exportable raw materials, especially as wool will not, probably, long continue to increase either in quantity or quality, and is not found to be that mine of wealth which it has been represented by interested parties.

Of the Western Province, Clanwilliam may be said to be the last in importance, both in present value and with reference to it as a field for the reception of settlers of any class. It is, in fact, in general, a district very ill supplied with water, and subject in an intense degree to droughts and locusts. Indeed, it may be considered incapable of supporting securely a greater fixed population than it now possesses; and therefore I need not trouble the reader with a further account of its incapacity for general improvement.

CHAPTER VIII.

EMIGRATION—THE COLONY ABLE TO GIVE EMPLOYMENT TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS—DANGER TO BE APPREHENDED FROM A LARGE ADDITION TO PRESENT POPULATION—DEFICIENCY OF WATER—EMIGRANTS WITH CAPITAL—SERVANTS AND LABOURERS.

EMIGRATION to the Cape is now a matter of great public interest, as government has determined so far to listen to the unceasing prayer of the English part of the colonial population as to grant free passages to emigrants of a certain class, and to lend its countenance and aid to all persons wishing to avail

themselves of them by proceeding to the colony. Many successive administrations have been urged to take this step; but the great expense entailed by the expedition sent out for the purpose of forming a settlement in Albany in the year 1820, and the assistance obliged to be provided for a great length of time to the emigrants, together with other reasons, have hitherto been sufficient to prevent any attention to the demand.

Of late, however, the circumstances of the colony have so far changed that there could remain no very great objection to allowing and aiding a limited number of labouring emigrants to proceed to it. It must, however, be considered by all who have a knowledge of the country, that room for a very general augmentation of the existing population does not exist, and that in the actual state of the colony, arising from natural obstacles, no great increase of numbers could hope to exist within its boundaries. The pasturage, water, and,

therefore, the means of supplying food, are even now undoubtedly utilized almost to the utmost —indeed, so much so, that a dry season is fearfully fatal to flocks and herds; and many farms are fully occupied which command so limited a supply of water, that the residents regularly leave them at certain seasons, and wander about from one temporary pool to another, as rain happens to create them, in order to economize that necessary to the utmost near their homestead.

Nor can the hope be held out that, even should water be obtained and preserved by dams and wells, the pasturage would suffice for any general or material increase of stock; and those who are acquainted with the nature, soil, and circumstances of the country, know full well that the herbage could not be stimulated even by an increase of moisture to any great extent for a permanence, and to a limited extent only, in proportion as its qualities would be rendered unwholesome for stock; and that

artificial pasturage can never succeed beyond the limits of an experiment. It follows, therefore, that any sensible augmentation of population will inevitably be absorbed by the country to the north-east of the Orange River, and thus eventually oblige England to extend her dominions and establishments in that direction to an indefinite and unprofitable extent.

It is the existing population of all races and colours, from the Dutchman to the Hottentot, that would leave the country first; and the inclination is so rife among them, that but a small stimulus will cause it to be acted on to an extent which may prove very serious. It is evident that the places of those so leaving would be filled up by new comers; but this would not prevent the embarrassment I have before hinted at, and would entail on the colonial government much real inconvenience from the inaptness, and consequent discontentedness and misery of the substituted population thus introduced.

Two-thirds of the colony (that is, the ha-

bitable part of it) are unfit for the reception of Europeans, and can only be utilized by a race who would for generations inhabit its better portions, and gradually approximate their habits, feelings, and experience to the exceptional state of the rest. A great stress has been laid on the effect of a large importation of British energy, knowledge, and industry, and although due credit is to be given for the real value of these qualities, this is the country in which, of all others, the employment of them will soonest find its limit. When all this energy must be expended in an often vain effort to prevent loss, or to overcome difficulties, the control of which will only have a conservative, and not a progressive effect on the settler's circumstances, its constant exercise soon sickens, and the consequences will be despair and misery. It must be admitted that a British population is of more intrinsic value than a Colonial Dutch one; but then the latter has, by long experience, been taught to moderate hopes and necessities within a compass little in accordance

with the go-ahead notions of the present race of Englishmen of all classes of society.

These are facts, and they are proved by the superior success and contentedness found among the Dutch Boërs, who evidenced them much more strongly previously to the departure of by far the wealthiest and most intelligent portion of their members for Natal and other parts beyond the Cape.

Returning to the subject of water, bearing so intimately as it does on the question I am discussing, I must here mention that I have conversed with many well-informed and observing old Boërs about it, and they, one and all, concurred in the observation appearances had led me to make, that in vast extents of country, especially in the districts of Graaf Reinett, in the Newfelt Range, and in Colesberg and Cradock, this first of necessaries had notably decreased within their recollection, and was continuing to do so every year; and, be it observed, not from any failure of the rains, but

from some unexplained organic causes. No one of an observant mind can fail to remark the evidences of this fact everywhere, in the empty water-courses, which clearly, at a former date, contained water in abundance, that existed for long periods; and in the great number of ruined farm-houses to be met with, which have been deserted when the supply of water no longer sufficed for the wants of the inhabitants.

Having thus taken a general view of the nature of the country, as it immediately bears upon the question before the reader, and having premised that this colony offers a field for the reception of a limited number of settlers, it is fit that I should give my opinion as to the classes for which it is most fitted, and in what manner they might be best provided for.

The mere capitalist expecting an immediate return in hard cash, for money invested in land in this colony, would be grievously disappointed in most cases, whether he stood as

proprietor or as a first mortgagee. The difficulties of realizing property when required, are enormous here, and estimated and real value are two very different things, and subject to fluctuations which render all calculation abortive. Such investments would, in general, only suit persons connected with commercial concerns in the towns, and who would receive the interest for their money in goods which they could turn to an account in their business, while the money-value of the land might be considered as a stock in trade, which might turn out a good or a bad speculation, according to circumstances. Six per cent. is the usual interest on mortgages, and its amount proves against the security, especially as collateral sureties are often required. Indeed, some of the great losses sustained by government, and other mortgagees, on first-rate property, when brought to the hammer, have lately rendered it almost impossible to raise money on land at all.

The emigrant with capital who intends to buy a farm, must recollect that the value of land in this colony has, by this time, been well ascertained; and he must not flatter himself into the hope of making a great bargain, or of ever being able to realize anything like a fortune by his farming. Those colonists who are really well off here, are, without exception, persons who have made money either in respectable commercial concerns, or by keeping retail wine and spirit canteens, and who have retired from the turmoil of business, to live quietly on farms which have come into their hands during a depressed state of things, and at a low price, or in payment for the debts of their former owners, and which could not be otherwise sold without incurring considerable loss and delay.

There are spots in this colony perhaps better adapted than any part of the world for the settlement of half-pay or retired officers having families, or of other persons possessing

a small independent property, in addition to what it might be necessary to invest in a farm. In Albany, (if the Kaffirs are quiet,) Zwellendam, or George districts, many farms may be found, having upon them good houses, and situated in delightful and picturesque parts of the country, where the finest and most healthy climate in the world may be enjoyed, and where European comforts are attainable, and cheap.

A well selected farm in such a situation, ought to provide a family comfortably with the more material objects of consumption, and the additional means at the disposal of such settlers would keep anxiety and care from the door.

To a man fond of sporting, the colony offers amusement of the most varied kind, unattended with expense, or untrammelled with the formalities which limit that enjoyment to a favoured few at home. Here game, either for the rifle or shot gun, is always within easy access, and a boundless extent of country

is everywhere open to the sportsman. Speaking from experience, I should say that health is much more secure in South Africa than in England, at all seasons, and that the descendants of Europeans, born there, possess, in general, great physical superiority over their parents, in strength and beauty.

Let no one, however, suppose that, in the present state of things, he will realize a large income by farming. It is against general experience, and cannot be done, notwithstanding all the hopes that have been held out by some interested or deceived people.

With regard to the humbler classes of emigrants for this colony, I should say that one thousand would be the greatest number who could obtain employment suited to the capacities and habits of decent labouring people. The majority of this class of persons coming here, should consist of domestic servants, and young, active out-door labourers. A good many female servants, such as cooks, house-

maids, and nurses, would readily find situations in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Graham's Town, and the other villages; and a small number might get places on the better farms, where such luxuries as servants are indulged in.

Such persons would, in general, find wages about the same as in England. At present English servants obtain a rate of wages slightly higher than they could in England, but then they will find most things, such as clothes, rather more expensive, and soon worn out; and they must make up their minds not to be so well cared for or lodged as at home, as a general rule, and they will experience some humiliation in reconciling themselves to be looked upon as belonging to and herding with black people.

In England, I know that servants do not object to have a "blackey" in the house with them; but in a colony, where all the white people, even the most humble, consider them-

selves superior to, and avoid contact with, the coloured race, upon equal terms, ideas on this subject rapidly change. One thing the emigrant labourers may be sure of,—they will always get situations, if their number is restricted as I have mentioned; and they run no risk either of starvation or the union workhouse. I do not, however, think that any one should come here who can procure work in England, unless he have a decided reason for doing so; and I would caution such persons against indulging too freely in the vain hope that they are likely gradually to rise in the scale of society in this colony: such a change in their circumstances is not more likely to take place than if they remained at home, conducted themselves well, and were fortunate.

With respect to the kind of out-door labourers required, I should say that those would succeed best who, without having previously followed any particular occupation so closely

as to be almost unfitted for any other, are men who, as the term is, "can turn their hands to anything." Agricultural occupations are of a light and varied kind, where they are carried on at all, compared with the same employment in England, and require, in general, more intelligence to execute them well than mere hard work,—but in a few districts, on the wine farms, and near towns or villages, some intelligent men of that class might possibly get on. Married men should not, in my opinion, come out.

As shepherds, I have great doubts whether natives of any part of Great Britain would succeed. A few might probably, in the districts of Zwellendam and George,—that is, on the farms of gentlemen settled there, on what may be termed the "fermes ornées" of the colony, but even in those places the demand would be soon supplied. In the principal pastoral districts, such as Graaf Reinett, Beaufort, and Somerset, I do not think such men would

answer as shepherds. The great extent of wild, rocky country to be travelled unceasingly for twelve hours a day, without regular meals or rest, in order to give the flock an opportunity of getting enough to eat without annihilating particular tracts of pasture, would be extremely distressing to Europeans during at least nine months of the year, on account of the great heat, and glare from the bare, rocky ground, which they would be exposed to in a country where the shade of a tree cannot be hoped for, or a drop of water often procured.

Even the Hottentots, although especially fitted by nature for this kind of life, and indifferent to excitement, find the employment irksome; and the existing scarcity of herdsmen is attributable not so much to the want of numbers capable of undertaking the duties of a shepherd, as to the general prevailing distaste which exists against this occupation. Added to these reasons, such men would have in general to live and lie roughly after their return in

the evening, and I do not think that, even after they had acquired the local experience necessary to their calling, farmers would be able to give them wages which would be satisfactory to them—18*s.* or 1*l.* a month being the extreme limit of the remuneration for such services that could be afforded. Here and there, perhaps, it might suit a farmer to hire a shepherd to attend to the ewes in the lambing seasons, to watch and take care of the "sick flock," which is too common everywhere at all times, and generally to do little jobs about the homestead, but this would only place a very few applicants.

I cannot recommend "The Cape" as a colony where much skilled labour is required, or is remunerative. I have known several instances of industrious young men, such as cabinet-makers, carpenters, &c., failing to obtain profitable employment in the colony, and returning to England as soon as possible.

Let me also caution those young men, of a

superior class but without capital, who might be tempted out under the idea that services of all kinds are so eagerly sought and remunerated in this colony, that they have but to go out to be sure of getting a livelihood as clerks, superintendants, or in other such employments; they will generally fail; situations to which such persons would be eligible are mostly well filled. I remember meeting with two most superior young men, one of whom was a clergyman's son, at Graaf Reinett, who had wandered all over the Eastern Province in the vain search for employment, and having spent all their little stock of money, were then working as bricklayers' labourers at 1*s*. 6*d*. a day, and living on animal food of the worst description, as bread was a luxury too dear for them to indulge in.

All this I am aware is very different from what is usually set forth in books and newspapers on this subject, but it must be borne in mind that the parties communicating such

accounts are either misled by the local knowledge they possess of the limited wants by which they may be surrounded, or are, as is generally the case, persons expecting an immediate profit by importations of all kinds, and who do not trouble themselves as to the ultimate fate of their consignments.

It will be gathered from the foregoing remarks, that I do not, in common with most of those who have preceded me in writing on this subject, recommend the Cape as suited for the reception of many new inhabitants. The productive qualities of the country are not equal to their support, and, in my opinion, very few persons would improve their circumstances by emigrating hither, and the colony in general would on the whole rather lose than gain by the acquisition of considerable additional population.

CHAPTER IX.

THE KAFFIR WAR—THE BOERS—THE TREATIES—SIR HARRY SMITH—EFFECTIVE NATIVE FORCE—PROBABILITY OF IMPROVEMENT AMONG THE NATIVES—THE HOTTENTOT FORCES—MISSIONARY EFFORTS.

THE troubled question of the Kaffir war has of late excited so much attention, and is one of such import—not only to the colony, but to the mother country—that I cannot refrain from venturing a few remarks on the subject at all risks, and notwithstanding the unpalatable truths which I feel that I shall be compelled

to publish. It is not necessary to enumerate the petty details of squabbles between the colonists and the Kaffirs, to enable the unprejudiced reader to comprehend that the true "*casus belli*" between them arose from cupidity on both sides.

The Boërs wanted, or rather supposed they wanted, pasturage, and unhesitatingly sought it in Kaffirland, without regarding the injustice they committed in so doing; and the Kaffirs were tempted beyond their powers of resistance, by the fine herds which were thus sent to ravage their country, and stole them whenever opportunity offered, and hence the partisan warfare that has been more or less prevalent for so many years.

It must be recollected that cattle are, in Kaffraria, the current coin. It is with them that the Kaffir buys his numerous wives; and, having thus provided himself with labour, tills the land round his hut, procures corn, and is enabled to eat the bread of idleness, so sweet

to the African native. It is a degradation to him to labour, but a meritorious act to have stolen the white man's cattle; and such an exploit affords him an agreeable excitement in the planning and execution, besides the honour and renown, which yield to his proud nature as much gratification as the more material proceeds of the acquisition. An accomplished cattle-stealer is a hero, as well as a rich man; and can we wonder at the results of such incitements to the stealing of colonial cattle, especially in a country offering, in its rocky and difficult nature, so many facilities for the practice? The policy, too, that Exeter Hall rendered popular, and perhaps necessary, in Downing-street, has lent most powerful aid, for a long time, in promoting that deplorable state of things in which an expensive and bloody war is but a marked incident.

That policy having, however, at last caused an invasion which threatened the very existence of the Eastern Province as a part of our

dominions, and having created expenditure out of measure enormous in proportion to the popularity to be gained by a persistence in such a line of conduct, it is at length about to be changed, and the present administration have the deserved credit of terminating, finally I hope, a war which never need have happened had Sir Benjamin D'Urban's opinion been adopted, of establishing with the Kaffir chiefs peaceful relations, which there was a better opportunity of making permanent fifteen years ago.

Will it be believed that government are now obliged to have recourse to the plan marked out by Sir Benjamin D'Urban at that period, and the harsh rejection of which caused that distinguished officer, and most humane man, to resign the governorship of the Cape, under the unmerited stigma of having harboured the thought of injustice towards these native tribes?

The government of that day, however, did

not feel so much regret at the loss of such valuable services, as to prevent their crowning their work by a farce, an indulgence in the acting of which cost them all that had been so laboriously won by the talented exertions of Sir Benjamin, and the sweat, blood, and bravery of those who served under him. It was imagined, or rather reported to be imagined, although it is difficult to suppose ignorance carried so far, that these Kaffirs were, in reality, the most peaceably-disposed people upon earth, possessing a strong sense of honour and probity, and only desiring to be guaranteed from the tyranny of the colonists, (poor lambs!) and a determination was consequently come to, to make treaties with the chiefs, the performance of which could only be secured by their honourable observance of what was detrimental to the interests of themselves and their people, as they understood it.

The fact was, that, at the period to which

I allude, they had been well beaten in the field by our gallant troops, and had decided that they could hope for no success, against even the small number that could be opposed to them, unless they were completely equipped with fire-arms; and their desire to treat for peace arose from a wish to gain time and uninterrupted opportunity for procuring these powerful auxiliary means of assailing the colony with overwhelming power, at a future period.

The wily barbarians, having thus taken advantage of the cry of the day, which had been the cause of the forced resignation of Sir Benjamin D'Urban, negotiations for peace began, and a plenipotentiary was appointed on behalf of the government, to propose and frame treaties. This person was not even an Englishman; and, flattered and delighted at the power conferred on him, he invested his transactions with the chiefs, in his dispatches, and, what was of more consequence, in his conduct, with an inflated importance, which

made the poor naked barbarians representing the Kaffir nation imagine that they, and not the English, were the stronger people, and produced most disastrous impressions.

The buffoonery, too, which is inherent in all persons tinged with black blood, and which is harmless, and even amusing under ordinary circumstances, was displayed by this man, on this occasion, in a manner which has been perpetuated, not only by the caricatures of the day, published in the colony, but survives in the contempt, not yet eradicated, which the Kaffirs felt for a people who deputed such a person to deal with them. To crown all this, a pension of 700*l.* a-year has been ever since paid by our generous, but often-gulled countrymen, to this negotiator. He was dubbed a knight, and retired to enjoy the *otium cum dignitate* far from the scenes where he had earned his rewards. These facts can never be made sufficiently public in a country where similar rewards are so often vainly desired by

men who have meritoriously spent a lifetime in the service of their country.

The Kaffirs were not slow to perceive and take advantage of the facilities which these treaties afforded them for plunder; and they soon repaired the losses they had sustained during the war. The nicety of proof required by the terms of these famous treaties was so great that it was scarcely ever possible to recover stolen cattle from the cunning chiefs, who laughed at our scruples, and profited by our conduct, which they supposed was dictated, not by our humanity but by our weakness.

This state of impunity gave them time to consider the means they should adopt to make themselves equal to actual conflict with our troops; and they fancied that the possession of fire-arms (of which they, during the war of 1834, possessed very few) would enable them to throw off the slight mask they continued to make a semblance of wearing, and

then to plunder the colony at their ease. The most economical cunning was resorted to on their part, and the connivance of white traders enabled them to arm themselves at the expense of the frontier farmers.

When this was fully accomplished, they did not hesitate an instant, but entered the colony as invaders; and the war that ensued is fresh in the recollection of the public. Under the experienced government of Sir Harry Smith, peace will, I have no doubt, be permanently secured; and the enemy be compelled to feel that he is no longer to run riot in our territories whenever the humour may seize him.

The manner and bearing to be displayed in future, in all public dealings with these people, are of importance; and all parade which may be interpreted by them as complimentary to their superiority must be avoided, and, in its place, a very firm and uncompromising, but kind, tone of address and action be adopted.

Every Kaffir should be compelled to give up his gun, which is entirely useless to him save for the purpose of harassing the colonists. He is a tiller of the ground, and not a hunter. Exportation of arms and ammunition into the Kaffir country must be rendered highly *penal* in all cases, and subject the seller to severe punishment. Without some such law as this, peace can never be of long duration; while the gain to be derived from the sale of such articles, and the profitable consequences to traders of thus creating warlike tendencies, form a temptation not to be resisted by the merchants of the Eastern Provinces. In cases like these, the bull, whether white or black, must be taken by the horns, and convinced of the moral and physical strength of the power thus dealing with him, and he must not be loosed without having had the points of his weapons of offence blunted.

In fact, a firm policy is really the only humane one to be adopted in dealing with all bar-

barian races, as our many abortive attempts at temporizing with them have too clearly proved.

It is said to be the intention of the government to defend our frontier, and protect the colony from Kaffrarian invasion, by enrolling a force composed entirely of Kaffirs, properly disciplined. This, no doubt, is an excellent plan; but, at the same time, its success depends on many contingencies difficult to control, and the experiment is one of much delicacy. The idea was first originated, I believe, by the admirable results which attended the application of similar means to the tranquillization of the Ghoorkas, and other warlike hill tribes of India. At the same time, while reasoning from analogy on this subject, material differences in character, pursuits, interest, and locality, must have their weight; and, before trusting too much to the effectiveness of such means, care must be taken to provide agalnst the difficulties to arise from these differences.

The hill tribes of India were utter savages, in the midst of, but isolated from, civilization, and felt themselves to be, as they really were, weak in point of comparative numbers, destitute of combination, knowledge of war, and nationality, and surrounded on all sides by the British provinces, where advanced civilization but ill brooked such barbarous neighbours.

The Kaffir clans, on the other hand, live under a government well adapted to their wants, and especially favourable to the maintenance of their nationality and customs. The proof of this is, that they have not changed the minutest usage practised among them, except in the adoption of fire-arms. Dress, which is usually the first thing in which the African native copies the European, to the utmost of his power, is despised and unused by them; nor have they, during the long series of years in which they have been in contact with Europeans, become in the least blended with

them; there exists no intermediate breed between the European and the Kaffir.

They do not desire any other system than that which they possess, and which they consider sufficient to render them a very happy people. This indifference to advancement does not arise from apathy, but from deduction and choice, after a comparison, as far as their knowledge has permitted, of our state with theirs. They are, too, conscious that they can bring superior numbers into the field against the colony, and have on many occasions shown themselves very expert tacticians, and capable of forming military combinations requiring a regular plan and much foresight.

The native soldier of India, whether Hindoo, Mahometan, or Ghoorka, feels himself raised in the estimation of his countrymen when he dons regimentals; and so, his qualities are, as it were, purchased by us, at the price of the consideration we can give him.

I fear that the pride, and feeling of utter

superiority inherent in the Kaffir will render this lure useless in his case; and although, perhaps, a force comprised of these natives may be raised, its ranks will be filled by the Pariahs of the tribes, and therefore will not have the much-to-be-desired moral effect that might be produced, were it possible to tempt the better classes into the ranks, — and its utility will be limited by its physical strength, and the amount of fidelity displayed. The present governor of the colony is, no doubt, cognizant of all this, and, if allowed full licence to act, he will do everything he undertakes effectually. The Kaffirs know him well, too, and have a wholesome fear of his prowess.

As to the particular species of force calculated to be the most useful in peace, because the most formidable in the peculiar circumstances of warfare in this country, there are many opinions, but few practical suggestions have been made; and a civilian runs great, and perhaps well-merited, risk, in venturing a

remark upon a subject so exclusively military.

It is, however, generally admitted, that heavy cavalry and regular infantry are not the sort of troops best calculated for the war of surprises and skirmishes so constant on the frontier.

Heavy dragoons are costly troops everywhere, but more especially in a situation where it is so difficult to obtain horses equal to carry them efficiently; and when dismounted, owing to the unfitness of their arms for such service, they are by no means efficient infantry. As cavalry, they are not, in such a country of rocks and jungle, placed in a situation where their utmost utility can be called into action, as the probability of getting the enemy to stand and receive a regular charge is chimerical. They are reduced, therefore, to the task of acting as light irregulars; and, where almost every view of the enemy must be obtained by stratagem, aided by concealed and noiseless movements, it is impos-

sible to suppose them the best kind of troops to be employed. Their enormous and glittering brass helmets, and such brilliant panoply, render them too visible to the lurking foe, while the rattle made by their iron scabbards give him warning of their approach, which might, under more appropriate circumstances, have been effectually concealed.

Neither can regular infantry be pronounced the best force in such a country. If the enemy would stand, and exchange a regular platoon fire with such troops only once, they would have no inclination to repeat the experiment; but, instead of that, they generally open a scattered fire, from detached and sheltered points, and thus the well-drilled soldier is, as it were, thrown away upon them, even in the fight, and falls at once to the level of an individual more or less skilful in the use of his weapon, as the case may be; but, in consequence of the incumbrances with which he is loaded, he is too slow to reap all the advantages

to which his bravery entitles him. His weapon, too, although recently much improved, is an indifferent one, and, at the long distances often required, almost useless. At 150 yards, I have found that the musket, with the service cartridge, drops its ball fully four feet, and thus renders it almost impossible to hit a man at that distance.

An application of these facts to the peculiar circumstances of this warfare is worthy of considerable attention, as results and impressions depend on them much more intimately than is generally supposed, or than would be the case in regular engagements against a disciplined enemy.

The Cape Mounted Rifles, composed of Hottentots, officered by Englishmen, have proved themselves most gallant and efficient soldiers; but it might probably be unwise to increase their numbers greatly, although their armament might be much improved. Their double-barrelled guns, carrying a very large

ball, are extremely heavy, although good of the kind; and their dragoon swords are too large for the little eight-stone men of whom the regiment is composed. These weapons, indeed, are seldom of any use to a horseman in Kaffir warfare, and are very cumbersome and inconvenient appendages to drag about amongst the bushy precipices, where these troops generally act on foot.

Under all circumstances, perhaps the authorities would do well to consider whether a special kind of force might not be formed, of materials selected for the purpose, which would be more efficient and economical for the harassing duty to be performed at all times in this part of the colony, and equally proper for any other service that might be required of them as soldiers elsewhere.

Such troops might be mounted on cheaper horses than those required for regular cavalry, and which would serve more as expeditious means of transporting the men suddenly and

swiftly to given points, than as regular chargers; and a system of drill might be contrived which would render the men capable of acting either as cavalry or sharp-shooters, in such a country, and against such a foe, with terrible effect.

Lightness and efficiency must be regarded in equipping both man and horse, and those useless and distressing galling-machines, used under the name of military saddles, must be banished the service, for a really business-like pig-skin. This is very important where horses suffer so much from galled backs as in this country.

In considering the manner in which such a body might be best armed, many plans suggest themselves with a view to the decrease of the weight to be carried by the soldiers, the supply of ammunition, and the greater efficiency of these necessaries.

To render such troops as effective as possible, they should certainly be armed with the rifle; and, in providing them with this weapon,

(double-barrelled if procurable,) a new and simple pattern might be adopted, which, while it is very easy to load, will throw its projectile with much greater force and accuracy than the ordinary rifle. By having their rifles of smaller calibre than is usual in the army, the ammunition (common powder and lead) might be reduced nearly one-half in weight, without losing its superiority over the ordinary ball in force and accuracy. This would allow of the soldier carrying nearly twice the usual number of cartridges, and, of course, diminish the expense and difficulty of transport most materially.

This suggestion, perhaps, may be of value, in connexion with the peculiar circumstances of Kaffir warfare, and I should not have offered it, had I not seen proof that what I have stated is an actual and applicable fact. I trust I shall not be accused of presumption in offering these *suggestions* as to the force most likely, in my opinion, to be useful, and calculated for

the peace and war services required on the frontier. Should such, however, be the case, I offer as an apology, that they have been admitted, when I have been conversing, on the spot, with those capable of judging, as not unworthy of attention.

Missionary efforts have been for a long time carried on vigorously in Kaffirland, but, hitherto, with wretched success; and the failure is not to be wondered at. The Kaffir has no knowledge of a deity, nor can he be impressed with the idea of the advantage of possessing a religion, whose rewards are to be reaped in a state of being of which he is ignorant. He treats the reception or rejection of any faith as a matter of perfect indifference, so far as it may influence a future welfare, of which he cannot be made to comprehend the importance; and he will argue on doctrinal points in a practical, speculative sort of way, even more discouraging than direct opposition. Added

to this, polygamy forbids the acceptation of Christianity by the Kaffir. He is rich only in proportion as his wives (his only labourers) are numerous; and, therefore, by accepting Christianity, he condemns himself to poverty and contempt, at least—to say nothing of the blow levelled at his habitual sensuality.

It is certain that any Kaffir who consents to become Christian will do so on conviction, as his character among his own people will gain nothing by such a change. And in this material respect, he differs from the weaker and inferior South African races, both within and beyond the colony, who are tempted to assume, in an inconsiderate way, the name, and, some of them, the outward practice of Christians, from an idea of thereby assimilating themselves to the white men, upon whom they have been obliged to look as their superiors ever since they have been in contact with them, and not from in the least understanding or appreciating the value and more im-

portant benefits of their (nominally) adopted creed.

We may conclude, therefore, that it is extremely improbable that any number of this people, even in the revolution of ages, will be induced to accept Christianity as a faith. Too happy may we consider ourselves if, after a long intercourse with well-chosen missionaries, some of the best disposed among them are induced so far to feel the influence of the morality they may witness in those pioneers of civilization, as to modify some of the more savage propensities of their nature, and thus become enabled to appreciate the advantages of peace and good-will towards the white men.

CHAPTER X.

PLEASURES OF CAPE TOWN—FIELD SPORTS IN THE COLONY—FEATHERED GAME—LION-HUNTING—ELEPHANT-SHOOTING—FEROCITY OF A RHINOCEROS—THE HIPPOPOTAMUS, OR SEA-COW—THE TIGER—HYÆNA, ELAND, GIRAFFE, ETC.—GEOGRAPHICAL DISCOVERY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THE recreations to which a settler in South Africa can look forward, are certainly as various and delightful as those afforded by any colony, and quite equal to the demands of a reasonable man's taste. In Cape Town and its neighbourhood, varied and intellectual society is most accessible; great numbers of

Indian officers, civil and military, are always to be found here, and sojourn generally long enough to induce them to mix with and become known to the more regular inhabitants, and this prevents that feeling of "ennui," which is so common in all small communities not receiving every now and then a fresh infusion of those materials of which society is composed.

Among the pleasures of Cape Town, that which its excellent public library affords is conspicuous; nor must a capital club, in every respect unexceptionable, be forgotten. Numerous balls and social parties are everywhere going on in the season, and afford occasions for the display of that beauty of which the fair colonists possess a most liberal share, and from the effects of which, even the veteran valetudinarians from the East are by no means exempt, as the marriage register can testify.

Out of doors, amusement is still more rife. All the towns and villages now have races,

and, more especially at Cape Town, the business of the turf is well understood and enjoyed by all classes.

Every other field-sport can, in this colony, be enjoyed in the highest perfection, near the Cape: at Fort Beaufort, in the eastern province, packs of good fox-hounds are kept; and although sly Reynard is not an inhabitant of the colony, his place is well supplied by the cunning and swift jackal, which is everywhere but too abundant.

The luxury of the risk of breaking a neck over a fence or made ditch, is, of course, not here one of the concomitants of a good run; but the bold horseman has plenty of opportunities of displaying nerve and skill, in passing over the precipitous and rocky ground he will generally meet with, to say nothing of the danger from holes with which it is everywhere bored.

But, in such a country, a gallop after a pack of hounds and a jackal, although a

tolerable amusement for those whose occupations prevent them pursuing sport further in the interior of the country, is but poor sport when compared with the chase of the nobler game which is attainable.

Almost everywhere, very good shooting at feathered game, and small antelopes, may be had, and it is generally the custom to shoot from the horse's back, the weather being often too warm to render walking a very tempting exercise; not to mention the fact that there are few people who, when tramping on foot among heath or bushes, can divest themselves of a certain unpleasant feeling, caused by the frequent sight of such deadly reptiles as the cobra, the puff-adder, and a host of other serpents, not so hideous, but probably not less dangerous.

Pointers are generally much in request in districts where partridges are plentiful, but these dogs generally degenerate remarkably in this country, and are more useful to make the

birds take wing when they are found and scattered, than for any of the more regular business required of them in England.

Bustards are almost everywhere plentiful, and the smaller sorts, called *koerhans*, are approachable in a bush country; but the larger kinds, called *paws*, are a great prize, as they are found on plains, and are generally shot with ball. I have, however, succeeded in killing them very frequently with shot, by riding round them in large but decreasing circles, which evolution, if skilfully performed, causes them to lie close till the horse walks them up.

Good shooting may be had, even very near the Cape, at small antelopes inhabiting the large masses of Protea bushes which, in the Western province, clothe the sides of the hills. These beautiful creatures are exceedingly swift, and quite exempt from any danger from the pursuit of dogs, so that, on sending a couple of good hounds into their coverts, they

do not break away, but dodge about before them, and are easily killed in the open spaces between the bushes, either with ball or shot.

But, after all, it is to the Eastern province, and beyond the Orange River, that the true sportsman will repair. Nowhere within the colonial boundary will a very great quantity of game be found, till the range of mountains called the Nieufeldt, the Winterbergen, and the Sneeuwbergen—different portions of the same chain—be passed.

All the large herds of quaggas, gnoos, and springbucks, which Le Vaillant and other writers mention as having seen to the south of these mountains, are now scattered and dispersed by the incessant pursuit of which they have for so many years been the object; but, having emerged from the hills, and entered the boundless plains beyond, the accusation of exaggeration which has assailed the accounts of all those who have attempted to describe the living masses of wild animals seen, is

at once acknowledged to have been unjust, and gives place to wonder and delight, as one contemplates the free and graceful movements of these wild herds in their own clime, and associated with the strange scenery of these regions.

Upon the mode of hunting the more innocuous and swift-footed game I have before spoken, and most capital sport is to be had in the pursuit; but when the lion is attacked, a different method is pursued.

This monarch of the wilderness is now rather scarce in the colony. A very few years ago, great numbers of them were to be found on the Boutebok "flats," at no great distance from Graham's Town; but the zeal and skill of some rare Nimróds in the regiments stationed on the Eastern frontier have notably diminished them; and, to make sure of falling in with any at present, the Orange River must be crossed. On the Caledon, on some parts of the Modder or Muddy River, and generally

to the east, north, or west of these rivers, lions may always be found.

The method of hunting them generally is this:—The persons composing the party, on seeing one in a favourable position, approach as near as possible, on horseback; then dismount, and either advance in a body, and fire upon the lion as he is lying looking at them, or, backing the horses towards him, fire from behind the rampart formed by these faithful beasts.

The aim is generally directed at the head, if possible, as the lion, when wounded in almost any other part, unless indeed the spine is broken, retains immense power of mischief, and is generally disposed to use it to the utmost while life lasts. The horses often suffer if the first volley poured in is not successful; but, not unfrequently, the hunters have been either killed, wounded, or desperately frightened on such occasions. It is not often that the lion is only wounded, however,

when attacked on a plain, as the distance at which it is usual to fire at him does not exceed thirty yards, and the firing-party is often numerous.

There are still a few men who are in the habit of trusting so implicitly to their skill and their weapon, as to attack this animal single-handed; but such a feat is dangerous, and often fatal.

The Boër is much more cautious in his mode of attacking the lion than the Englishman, and often have I heard him ridicule the foolhardiness, as he called it, which many amongst the military officers who were addicted to this sport were in the habit of displaying. It is not uncommon, when the lion is the principal object sought, to kill three or four in a day or two, and I have heard of ten being killed in one day by a party of, I believe, the twenty-seventh regiment.

The other large animals usually hunted in South Africa are the elephant, the rhinoceros,

and the sea-cow, or hippopotamus. The elephant no longer inhabits the colony in any numbers. Small straggling herds are still sometimes seen in the Zitikama forest, and in the jungles of Uitenhage, but they are very wild, and not worth pursuing. Towards Natal, in all the Zoolah country, and to the north-east of Litakou, immense numbers exist, and large quantities of ivory arrive from those parts. Hunting-parties are often formed by young farmers inhabiting the colony, or Natal, and they generally procure as much ivory as their means of transport will enable them to bring to market.

Elephant-shooting is not very dangerous work, as the animal is not very quick-sighted. Care must, however, be taken to approach him from the lee-side, as his scent is very keen, and the hunter would stand but little chance of getting a good shot if he were once discovered; and, moreover, would run considerable risk of being attacked, if the elephant was either

savage or alarmed. Fatal accidents do, however, often occur in elephant-hunting, and this happens when the animals are numerous, and the country of such a nature as to prevent a man from seeing freely in all directions.

When the regular elephant-hunter has decided which of the troop in view at the time he will shoot, he approaches his enormous quarry carefully, and endeavours to get as near as possible. Sometimes, he will arrive within ten or twelve paces, if the ground is favourable, and then the fate of the monster is sealed.

Aim is taken, either at the forehead, just above and between the eyes, behind the ear, or immediately behind the shoulder, if the fore-leg is stretched out sufficiently at the moment. A ball of six to the pound, or even less, will, in any of these places, prove instantly fatal, if it is well hardened with tin. Elephants are often killed with smaller balls,

but that is the real size for such game. Great fatigue is endured in carrying the enormous rifles or guns necessary for this sport; but now that the French have invented and perfected the system by which a cylindro-conical ball, of one half the usual size, has a much greater range and penetrating force, guns of such inconvenient weight are no longer necessary.

As few sportsmen are as yet aware of the immense advantages of this newly-invented ball, I may as well mention that, from experiment, I have found that a rifle with the charge of powder required for the round ball, has more than double the range with the projectile I allude to, and, at enormous distances—even beyond seven hundred yards—requires but a trifling elevation; and thus it is very easy to shoot with accuracy, as far as the powers of sight allow. The form of the projectile, too, prevents its being readily flattened by coming in contact with any hard or tough substance, and therefore, of course, the power of penetra-

tion is much greater. I have seen the extreme point of the cone of this ball formed of a piece of iron, and at two hundred yards it pierced an iron plate, and the perforation had all the appearance of having been drilled by a machine.

The greatest obstacles to the enjoyment of the sport of shooting large game, are, by this invention, much lessened. For animals such as gnoos, quaggas, ostriches, and common antelopes, there will no longer be the same safety as heretofore in their speed and wildness, as it will now be easy to shoot them at least twice as far as was formerly possible. I should here mention, that the two-grooved rifle, so much in fashion in England, does not answer for the form of ball I have spoken of, although many gunmakers would fain have one believe it will.

But *revenons à nos moutons*. The African elephant differs considerably from that of Asia. The stature is much greater, as sixteen feet

is not an uncommon height, and many are killed of even superior proportions. While, also, in Asia, only the male animal is furnished with ivory—and even male "tuskers" are scarce — in Africa, both male and female are alike armed for defence or attack. Some tusks are enormous; I have seen a pair sold for £40, on the public market. The ears of the elephant here are really out of proportion, even with his stupendous bulk, and add to the number of his special characteristics.

I should be inclined to think that elephant-hunting and the commerce carried on with the natives of the country inhabited by these animals, for ivory and ostrich-feathers, is a more lucrative occupation than colonial farming, judging from the prices I have seen obtained for the articles mentioned, as compared with that which they cost to obtain.

The rhinoceros is plentiful in all the country between the 29th degree of latitude and the

extreme limit known, and he is hunted for the sake of his hide, which is valuable for making the whips called "samboks," so necessary to the colonist. There are two species—the single-horned and the double-horned rhinoceros; but the skin of both sorts is equally valuable. I have seen parts of it from which "samboks" larger than a man's wrist might be cut, if necessary.

The rhinoceros is a difficult animal to kill, on account of the open places he often frequents, and of his great tenacity of life. If he is wounded by the first shot, his movements are so quick and incessant—as he charges about after everything and everybody he can see, that a great number of shots are generally expended on him before he falls from exhaustion.

His pace is something astonishing, and, could he see well and turn quickly, he would be an antagonist few would wish to encounter for the chance of getting his spoils. Fortu-

nately, however, his field of vision is very circumscribed, and the difficulty he naturally has in turning about his stiff carcass, is increased by the rash fury with which he charges.

A personal acquaintance of mine was once passing quietly over a plain on which several of these animals were to be seen: suddenly, one of them, without provocation, charged the waggon containing my friend, and drove his nose between the spokes of one of the wheels. This checked the brute for a moment, but, with a violent wrench, he broke the arm of the axle, galloped off with the wheel hanging entangled on his horn, and was soon out of sight, leaving the waggon a wreck on the plain, and scattering the people and oxen in all directions.

The African rhinoceros is, when full grown, above six feet in height, but out of all proportion long and bulky, and probably large specimens do not greatly fall short of the elephant in weight. They are not often seen in troops,

no more than two or three being usually in company.

In most of the large rivers in South Africa, the hippopotamus abounds, even at great distances inland; but it is at the mouths of the rivers that he is most plentiful. In parts of Kaffraria, very near the colony at Natal, and thence onwards, towards De la Goa Bay, immense numbers of these animals, called by the colonists "sea-cows," may at times be seen in the numerous rivers which flow towards the sea. Little danger is attendant on the pursuit of them, as they are shot from the banks of the rivers, by hunters who are concealed in the bushes, and who see them swimming about in the water, or wallowing in the mud banks. If, however, this animal is suspicious of danger, or has been fired at, it becomes a difficult task to kill him, as he then plunges into the deepest part of the river, and only at times presents the extremity of his great blunt nose above the water, to take in a supply of air. In this

case, the hunter endeavours to strike the part thus exposed with a ball, and the wound so inflicted compels the sea-cow to emerge from his subaqueous hiding-place, as the damage done to his nasal organ prevents him from diving with ease, or retaining his breath long under water. When he is once fairly on land, he is soon killed, as his size renders him an easy mark.

The hide of the "sea-cow" serves the same purposes as that of the rhinoceros, and some of his teeth are of more value per pound than ordinary ivory, being heavier, and more dense in texture.

The Bushmen, and many other tribes, contrive to take a "sea-cow" now and then, in pitfalls, and the banks of some parts of the Orange River are rendered dangerous to the traveller from the frequency of these holes, which, moreover, always contain a sharpened stake at the bottom, that invariably impales any animal unfortunate enough to get into the

pit. The capture of one of these huge beasts, weighing, as they sometimes do, as much as four or five large oxen, is an immense prize to the hungry Bushman or Koranna, as the flesh is by no means unpalatable, and the fat, with which these animals are always covered, is considered delicious. When salted, it is very much like excellent bacon, and is greatly prized by the colonists, not only for the table, but for the reputed medicinal qualities which are attributed to it.

The other game affording food for powder within the colony, and worthy of notice, consists of panthers, here called tigers, and hyænas, known, in colonial parlance, as wolves.

The panther attains a very considerable size at the Cape, measuring often six feet from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail, but is generally of rather inferior dimensions. It is very plentiful throughout the colony, in all mountainous or jungly situations, and is much dreaded by the farmer for

the losses it occasions among horses and young horned cattle.

From the appearance presented by the tiger in different localities, I am inclined to think that two, if not three, distinct varieties exist; but, unfortunately, I am not sufficiently scientific to decide the question.

The retreat of the tiger is, in general, difficult of approach; and, from his skulking and cowardly nature, even when his lair is found, he generally creeps off out of sight as soon as he fears danger. It is usual, therefore, to have dogs at hand when hunting him, and to slip them as soon as one is sure of being in his neighbourhood. Any yelping cur will answer for this sport, as the tiger generally runs off for a large bush, tree, or a ledge of rock, and there takes refuge, awaiting, with glaring eyes and a most vicious expression, the advance of the hunter.

If this animal is wounded, he sometimes becomes very dangerous, and often tears or

even kills some of his foes before he expires. Accidents are, however, of rare occurrence, as, when he is crouched in a tree or on a rock, he can be approached near enough to be easily killed by a good charge of buck-shot. The skin of this animal is valuable, and a good one sells for £2.

The hyæna grows to an immense size in South Africa, and the colonists pretend that there are two kinds. Be this as it may, all I ever saw resembled each other exactly, except in size or age. This creature is most destructive to all live stock he may fall in with at night, or in a disabled state; and if his courage equalled his immense strength, few animals could resist him.

He abounds in all parts of the colony, especially in the eastern province, and his dismal and prolonged howl is regularly heard by the traveller, echoing through the wilds, as soon as the squalling of the jackals has ceased, which is usually the case shortly after dark.

No sound is more impressively lugubrious than the howl of the "wolf" on a stormy night, when encamped, perhaps without a fire, and far away from that security which all feel when near human habitations.

As a beast of "venery," the hyæna ranks but indifferently, as he is the veriest poltroon possible in daylight, and does not resent the wounds he receives. I have even seen a very small dog bite a hyæna, and he had not pluck enough to return the compliment, although, perhaps, in the night, the same animal would have attacked a horse or an ox.

Hyænas are generally found asleep in ravines, under a bush, during the day, and have been sometimes killed in that position; but they usually hear the approach of man, whose footfalls in South Africa are never smothered by a smooth turf, but resound among the stones which everywhere cover the hills and ravines, and emit, when struck, a sharp metallic sound, very annoying to a sportsman

hoping to steal upon his game. When roused, the hyæna goes off at a long lumbering gallop, and always appears lame. He is invariably shot in the act of flight.

With respect to the eland, and giraffe, I can only say that the former is the largest antelope known in South Africa, or, I believe, in any other country, as it frequently exceeds 1000lbs. in weight. With regard to the latter, it is now well known in England, and is so scarce in accessible parts near the Cape, that it is rare to meet with any one who has killed a specimen of this animal. The eland is too bulky to run far; and, if pressed down wind by the horseman, his nostrils become so clogged with foam, that in ten minutes a very moderate nag compels him to stand still, panting, and awaiting the thrust of the knife, which is often used by the Boërs on such occasions. Hence, the eland is now very rarely found in the colony, as all have been killed, except perhaps a very few in the

Winterfelt. Beyond the Orange River, in certain localities, this antelope is often found in small numbers, and, on account of the delicacy of his flesh, is hunted with avidity.

I have not thought it well to inflict upon the reader any stories about the eccentricities of lions and other animals, with which many imaginative writers half-fill their books; but I trust that the short account I have here given of the various kinds of game, and the method of hunting them, will be acceptable, at least, to my brother sportsmen.

I can but wonder that, in these days, when excitement is purchased at any price by those who can afford it, more young men do not visit the Cape, for a six months' trip into the interior. No serious danger could, in general, be incurred in such an adventure; and I can say, that, for my part, some of my pleasantest hours have been spent in travelling in an ox-waggon, free and unfettered by the trammels of senseless conventionalities, but, at

the same time, having an especial eye to a good supply of the "utile et dulce" products furnished by civilized localities.

I could hardly conclude my book without alluding to the often-mooted subject of geographical discovery in Africa. In these days of enterprise, when almost every corner of the world, even the very icebergs of the Polar regions, are being ransacked with a view to derive possible commercial advantages from a knowledge of resources at present hidden from human ken, I have often felt astonishment that some serious attempt has not lately been made to penetrate the mysterious regions of central Africa, from the Cape. An idea, probably well founded, has long existed, that, could these regions be reached, populous nations would be discovered in a state of civilization and general advancement very far superior to that of the inhabitants nearer the sea coast.

I am quite clear that South Africa might be more easily and more deeply penetrated from this direction than from any other, supposing an expedition for the purpose to be properly organized and equipped.

In all the countries hitherto visited beyond the Orange River, towards the tropic, no important nation exists till the Kurricheine mountains are reached. All the intervening country, immense as it is, is inhabited by poor, roving, hunting tribes, almost brutish, and from whom little can be procured in the way of barter.

However, there is no great obstacle to reaching those mountains, and the country around and beyond them; and I am acquainted, and have conversed much on the subject, with two persons, who, having advanced thus far, found a healthy country, fertile and well watered, and where the arts of life were in a condition much more advanced than could have been imagined. Iron was made from the ore, and

worked with considerable skill, and the people seemed capable of appreciating art, and desirous of trade.

Immense quantities of ivory, ostrich feathers, skins, gum, and perhaps other articles, might be obtained from them, if once a trade was opened; and, intercourse having been thus established, and depôts formed at Littakou, they would probably meet the colonial traders there, at stated periods, and thus commence an association which might soon open up to our knowledge some of the unexplored countries of this vast continent.

I am aware that an expedition sent by government, some years since, in this direction, was entirely cut off; but, since that time, many persons have passed the extreme point attained by that unfortunate party; and, from all I have heard, I am inclined to think that a properly-appointed expedition might now safely proceed to an unknown distance towards the interior, and "return to tell the tale."

By proper arrangement, and supposing no great mishap to occur, it is probable that the expense of an expedition of discovery in this quarter might, in a great measure, be covered by the ivory and feathers brought back from parts already known, but rarely visited. A plan of execution, very different to that which has hitherto been acted on, must be adopted, and not less than two years from the time of quitting the colony must be devoted to travelling.

In a scientific point of view, it is most probable that many interesting and important discoveries would be made, and one step more would be taken in aid of the many others now in progress in all directions; which could not fail to forward the philanthropic plans now brought to bear on so many parts of this hitherto unhappy continent.

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